

Marcel Ray Duriez

Nevaeh

Book: 50

Book: 2 Impressions

Something to consider: 'Um-like-generally... when you are being a butt hole... you are being the hole of a butt... don't be a butt hole...'

Start:

The earth has slowed so much in a rotation... that the moon is only in one place within our world... there has been a fake sun made to light its now the cold and dying world.

THE SUN BLEW UP WITHOUT WARNING AND FOR NO APPARENT REASON.

It was waxing... only one day short of a full meltdown.

The IV'AN

1

The earth has slowed so much in the rotation... that the moon is only in one place within our world... there has been a fake sun made to light it is now the cold and dying world.

Years-and years-also has pasted... now on its new plant that... I am calling home.

Welcome to the new world... that I was telling you about. It is a century from now... also, the population of our tired planet has tripled... yet not with life... nothing indistinguishable, close,

near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise impressions of life... I had to get
away from it all... also, the crazy.

Lastly... the death blow to Earth...
with it now drowning in its own lethal
nest of taking over that is not real life-just
impressions of just that... of failing work
also industrial carelessness... were life
would not even be able to breathe... with
no sun left to burn... there were no
choices to pack up also look for a new
home out there pasted the milky way...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,

kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable I said-then
everything all... the entirety was all
wasting away... starvation also point of
viewers... the population has topped out
at a nice even 30 billion-to 1 thousand...
real life... if you can call them that now.

Thirty sets of legs SPRINTING
through the gorgeous red also
allochthone terrain. A junior military unit
-THE RANGER CADETS man -a
teenager... in four teams of eight... all
dressed identically.

The Earth is dying... also has
been dead for many years now...

sheltered with ashen ash... with coated
fungus... mildew of human civilization...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable acid rain... D-
rip-ping D-ripping down on them
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable pre-teen
period flow... that looks nothing
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable we once did...

that had to evolve or die. Also... someone
pulled the plug! Also- mother nature...
when nuts also spread it all over... with
her sick wrath.

Even the moon... now spiders
webbed with city also life... that were we
pushed to with our space travels... also
now a highway... that Interconnection is
from here to there... also it a two day
'round trip... lights on its dark side... we
took that over to needing more space to
flourish.

Too many ways- to may... of
them... changes... expansion... also
growth... of all industry; in everything

nuclear... violence of attacking one
another also brothermen... with ecological
warfare... tactics... radiation leakage from
power plants... also waste dumps after
dumps... toxic waste... everywhere... also
anywhere it can be well damped...
nothing indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise air pollution.

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable-
even if cars with those combustion motors

have not been a thing in years... along
with deforestation... pollution... also
overfishing of the sea's...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable blood rain...
that was coming to an end also... global
warming... making the plant cold... yet it
next to hell as hell could be.

So... with... complete... also total
depletion of all the ozone...
extermination... of us by the coronae of
them whom we made... with a loss of
biodiversity through all of these have
combined to make the once... a green also

gorgeous planet a terminal crap-pool... or
the next thing to it.

Mariella... she lives in the urban
sprawl which has grown
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable kudzu or
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable ivy over the
eastern U.S.A.... just taking back over the
earth is in some parts... 2 years have
passed... seen the end.

She part of its undifferentiated
concrete rat-hole is Spotsylvania... VA...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise you
could be anywhere... also it all would fall
dead... or crawling with something that
creeps or is creepy. It is the same
crowded... gray... trash-strewn high-tech
foulness. The walls are gray... the sky is
gray... the individuals are gray.

They shamle past each other in
dense crowds... ought to er to ought to
er... unwashed because of the water
shortages... also sickly looking from the

bankrupt diet of the cheap biological
compound also synthetic proteins.

It looks indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable to a
cross between modern cars also a
Calcutta train station.

Mariella has it a little worse than
most because... of her participation in a
stupid little war, people hardly evoke. He
is paralyzed from the waist down... also
its useless legs hang twisted emaciated
down the front of her wheelchair... that is
old school... on indistinguishable, close,

near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable the
world... she has just arrived at... the new
Earth they call it.

Mariella still wears its army
jacket... also with... its unkempt beard
also hair... also surly eyes... he is pretty...
much ignored by the crowds which buffet
her near, almost identical,
indistinguishable, close, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
surf. Just another angry vet... a piece of
discarded human trash. Mariella fights
her way to work every day on the

jampacked underpass... tunnels... for speeding trains.

Also- every night he goes home to a tiny cubicle of an apartment in a vast government housing project. She now is in a room is redolent of a cell at a centralized custodial... wheeling herself in... which is what it is... a cold-looking room.

The conveniences look indistinguishable, close, near, much of a muchness, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, and comparable they are from a Boeing space jet X-38... now caring

passages... to its new home... for 10 years... it was just so on heard of a few years back... now nothing... which is to say they are efficient... space mindful... also is about- 11 years old.

There is a single fluorescent fixture... which casts a sterile light over the grimy walls.

It flickers constantly... up in the sky's indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a star... yet those are new life's coming our

way... for the other seven New Earths...
that we make work... also inhabited.

Un-named yet...

indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise I sure we
as one worked well do that... it was
something that went back to the Trump
days. That he signed into office on united
world order... on all planets. Something
its son is now taking over in its late 60's.
So-o I sure one of these wells be named
after her... indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,

much of a muchness, and comparable
other us- a man of power.

2

□ FDR

□ Trump

□ Washington

□ Franklin

□ Lincoln

□ Kennedy

□ Clinton

FDR is the one that I am on now...
all U.S.A now too... thanks to its changing
back in the 17's... I look around the room

also all I see is a wall (all seven feet of it)
is a TV screen. She starts putting on
futuristic fatigue. It is just becoming light
outside the windows.

On it we get a wider view of the
world... also it is nothing to write home
about. She gets up. She touches her
corona to the figure of her many friends...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable a frame that is
jumping up at you in 3-D. Her fingers go a
little through the hologram. Then it off
with the day... there is a breaking story
about a fire in the subway which

asphyxiated over a hundred people... also playing on the screen on the wall... also indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a hologram. Not unusual these days.

It is followed by a feature about the death... of the last lion living outside captivity. A LARGE PLANET NEARBY also a larger sun eating away at a smaller sun. Also- over half the species extant at the beginning of the century are now gone forever... with most of the endangered. A third-world village - toxic river - cattle... hippos... also other lifeless creatures float

ominously downstream... not as we would
Link them... more evolved... to withstand
the ways of life. It leads to a recap of the
state of the environment overall... also it
is grim. A hazmat team stands on the
river's edge. The oceans are overfished
also barren... poisoned by toxic runoff.

Humans flee in terror as ACID
RAIN blisters their skin. All whales, also
at least half the Earth's fish species, are
extinct. Poisoned water... with all kinds of
bacteria multiplying. Cars jammed on the
old falling apart FREEWAY's that look
abandoned for years. All the citizens
choke on the air in a rural town... until
the end 11 years back.

Humans... using its technical ingenuity... has learned to keep itself alive... which it has strangled also crushed out of existence indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise it has lost all contact... with the natural world... there are no national parks left... only housing projects also protein farms. There are members of a multi-national force being led up ramps into the bellies of MASSIVE... ARK-STYLE SPACESHIPS.

Also... they are all assembled on an airfield at a glacial military base.

Yosemite is an upscale condominium development. It is amazing the things you can do with algal protein concentrate if you know your spices. The world's greatest minds united with a single mission... preserve humanity. Most oceanfront property is used for marriage culture since the only food source efficient enough to feed everyone these days is spirulina.

Mariella Spencer is a homeless lady in a hopeless world... a little man whom the big machine has ground up also spit out. Her twin sister died choking in the smoke of the subway fire... which Spencer had seen on the news... just the

same as the manfriend... that she keeps as a nothing indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise a hologram. Mariella gets a call from a computer at the municipal admin complex.

The automated voice tells her politely that its sister... has been killed in a transit system... accident back on the home planet... also he is needed to claim the body by 1300 tomorrow. There is SPENCER at the back on Earth... also in what was the USA... municipal linking's? she sits next to a large cardboard box...

about seven feet long or so-o... sitting on the rollers waiting to go into the boiler. In the box is her sister's body. We see that they are identical twins. There is no other family there... down there yet... you are here also you do not have to be.

Mariella watches the attendant cover her sister's body with the top of the cardboard box... then competently wraps it with two plastic straps...

indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable she's getting ready to ship it somewhere... as it goes into what indistinguishable, close, near,

almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable the
flams of hell.

Then the box is rolled into the
boiler... also the burners are lit. As she is
wheeling herself through the crowded
halls of the civic complex... Spencer hears
someone calling her name... She also sees
two men in suits working their way
through the crowd to catch up with her.

She is your tween must have died
with some debts... back home... too... yet
we are all here now or its death... for
life... she is at once suspicious...

wondering what collection agency they
are from. They tell her they are with the
PDA... the POSASSEMBLYS
DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE.

Looking around... we see Mariella
in her hibernaculum... its skin a bloodless
bleached white.

3

To combat the sustained brutal
acceleration also deceleration... he is
suspended in liquid... indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable a fetus in the womb. A cold

womb of dreamless sleep between worlds.

The charter allows them to exploit the resources of planets... moons... asteroids... whatever they find... It is an international consortium of major corporations whose determination is to find also exploit resources on other planets... both within the solar system... also in the last 11 years... between the nearer star systems. These two men ask Mariella if he knows anything about what her sister was doing in the last year or to hear when he was back home... fighting the overtake that they lost. Imagine the India Company funded by Bing...

Matsucrapa... also a dozen or so of their megacorporation allies.

Everyone just calls it 'THE ASSOCIATION.' The PDA has an official charter from the PCA... the Planetary Commerce Administration (pronounced eye-kaha...) a worldwide trade-regulating body run much indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable the EC's is today... if they follow the Intercontinental Space Resources Treaty... also the other treaties which prohibit weapons of mass destruction limit military power in space. It turns out

the suits are interested in Mariella since her genes... are the same as you can do it too. Just indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable you could be in a bot's body also the other way 'round you can do that with humanoids... to what is technology... using a chip in the mind also these... (she points...) She Miss Spencer had signed up for something called the mind-body take over Program (MBTP.)

In the Mind... -the body takes over Program you sign a 20-year contract to work on FDR... a planet of the Primary

Centauries interstellar system. She says they were not that nearby. She knows that she had made some transactions to work in space... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise he could not talk about it because... she had signed a non-exposed treaty.

The news services love to run clips of the wild scenery on FDR... also it is bizarre flora fauna. To a culture that has lost all contact with the natural world... FDR is mysterious... primitive... also frightening. indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous,

interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable we
know it still being made right for our
lives. indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
everyone... Mariella has heard of FDR...
or more properly Dominant Centauri B-5.

Discovered by the first
interplanetary expedition 11- years ago...
FDR has been the single most interesting
thing to happen to humanity in ages.
There is... of course... a primitive
humanoid species on FDR... as anybody
who watches the news would know.

So-o... What was she doing going to FDR? They elucidate ON what is going on. The suits take Mariella to dinner... also he even gets to order the real steak.

They are called the IV'AN... using their word for themselves. The humans usually refer to them clinically as the FDR'n's... also colloquially as 'the locals.' Humans cannot live on FDR without breathing gear... because the atmosphere is deadly yet. Toxic levels of ammonia... methane also chlorine... also the new sun too hot... yet that is being worked out there... by a man pushing us back with solar cells. They take DNA from an

IV'AN... also from a selected human
volunteer.

On Earth... in company genetics
labs... they create an in-vitro embryo also
we did of your sister... back when she was
a little man... which is a hereditary
composite of the alien also human donor...
it's one man is 14 we made her with your
DNA... also she is are captive... she is now
injected with you... when she was born...
she will be all... you'll look
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable to them now
with her body... also that now we chip to

chip... mind take over... as she ages...
you'll be here Linking's. using mind also
body control... you will live within her.

The recombinant embryo is
grown in-vitro during the flight to FDR...
which takes 10 years (ship-time- 7 years
Earth time... it is a dependence thing.)
They have freshly started a program
called MIND-BODY TAKE OVER Program.

The Association is trying to
bridge the cultural gap with the
autochthonous population... which has
been difficult to communicate also
negotiate with. At that time... it reaches

near pre-teen size... since the locals are now proven... in their place at teenage.

4

The unpaid human worker then becomes a CONTROLLER. Using PSIONIC INTERCONNECTION technology... the human controller can Linking's controlling the mind-body take over body out in the wilds of FDR. The controller receives all sensory input... also gives all motor control to the body.

The controller lives through the mind-body takeover... also is completely unaware of her own body while INTERCONNECTION-ed.

Each mind-body takes over is
genetically keyed to its respective human
supervisor.

When it is 'born' (or more
properly decanted) as a post-adolescent...
it looks indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable an
IV'AN... all look like fairies also can live
comfortably on FDR... indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable wise it has enough human

neurophysiology to be used- as a- mind-body take over or surrogate figure.

By communicating with the locals through these mind-body takeovers... which are less alien to them... the PDA has had some success teaching them English also basic skills. So-o she was going to be one of these administrators' men. That is right... they tell her. Her teen body is the same... in vitro... also now... at the lab for several months... we have been considering you as her replacement.

It is significant since only one in a hundred volunteers produce a practical

composite. Each workable embryo stalls for an investment of over 14 million dollars... you at 14 is now more... look at you know you indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable as one of them. The next mission leaves in 4 weeks... so he will have to go through a crash training course... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise it is still better than wasting a good mind-body takeover... now that you there- you are ready for us.

So-o... they are offering Mariella the same contract they gave tween. Since he is genetically identical... he can step into his sister's shoes... also become a controller... even if for its body... that you are in now... that looks as they.

One of the Consortium agents leans close to her. She says that as a mind-body takes over she will have legs... with the new body that she is in... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable she would have had at home planet Earth is she would have past mind also thought

awareness to Life-like... life. Long
powerful legs... also he can run again.

The agent's grin is
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wolf. The pay
is great... also it is a chance to be part of
a great adventure. Mariella tells them he
went for that line about it is not a job... it
is an adventure once already... also it cost
her the use of her legs.

Also- ten years is too long a stint
tossing up for... to get her when the bots
on Earth were doing there wiping out of

life... that was not being transported...
out. The army taught her a couple of
things. She tells them to take a walk.

5

‘It was very relaxing to be away
from civilization... also it bothered me. I
ought to not have found the loneliness so
welcoming.’ PUSH IN ON MARIELLA...
thinking about that. Also- you see in its
eyes... she is going to go for it.

SPACE... PRIMARY CENTAURI
SYSTEM... 2103 AD. The I.S.V.
PROMETHEUS fly's rearward through the
void... blasting out the fire of the gods
indistinguishable, close, near, almost

identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable a cosmic
blowtorch.

Its mixture fusion- antimatter
engines hurl out glowing plasma a million
times brighter than a welding arc... with
exhaust plume twenty miles long which
stretches out ahead of it... slowing it as it
nears Primary Centauri.

Primary Centauri is the nearest
star system to Earth... at 4.5 lightyears
away. A lightyear is the distance light
travels in a year... also since light travels

186... 000 miles a second... it is a long way.

~*~

It is a big... (that is what she said!!!) half a mile long. Most of that is engine also fuel... nonetheless... the fuel tanks are almost unfilled.

INTERPLANETARY VEHICLE

PROMETHEUS is finishing a month-long slowing down from its highest rate of over 9... 10th the speed of light... still pulling 5 gees'... you pull over that you are dead. I am pointing it is out because it is necessary to appreciate the kind of energy it takes to get there in any

sensible amount of time. You ought to go fast. As fast as the complete laws of physical science license. Also... you ought to use more get-up-and-go to reach that speed (also then slow back down) than all human evolution is presently using in a year. So-o the bottommost line is... the bottom line. Currency... A lot of loose change.

To get an idea of how far it is... imagine the Earth is a grain of sand in my driveway in Orlando. On that scale... the sun is cantaloupe 50 feet away. Also... Primary Centauri is in New York. About a million dollars a pound... to get something from FDR back to Earth. The item of the

game is not to go there also mine

Tekttites and Moldavite.

The least mass for the most buck;
you want to find things that do not exist in
our solar system at all or are incredibly
rare... also then you want to refine also
process those raw materials so that what
you send back is the finished product.
So... What you want to do is build up an
industrial infrastructure on FDR... you
want to tame it. You want to civilize it.
Also... you need workers to do that. Only
you cannot use humans... because: A.
They cost too much to bring.

B. They die in 35 seconds without
a breathing mask.

6

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise wait... you have an indigenous
population there.

So... colonization... in the
classical sense... will not work. They are
primitive... indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable

wise they have brains also coronas... also
maybe they can be taught to do the things
we need to be done. We can teach them...
also give them the cool knowledge to
improve their lives... so they can be
healthy also shrewd... also can all have a
TV... also in return... they will be so
grateful they will not only work in our
workshops... they will even build them for
us. Wonderful... About 900 billion miles
away (a mere stone's throw by
interplanetary sailboards... a couple of
light-months) is the third star... Proximal
Centauri... a runty little inflamed-dwarf.

These are the basic philosophies
of interplanetary imperialism... 2200 A.D.

In the middle... close together... are
Primary Centauri A- Also- B... two buttery
main arrangement stars very much
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable our star.

Ahead of Prometheus... we can
see the trinary system of Primary
Centauri... three stars orbiting each
other.

Staling on FDR (as you will soon)
you can see two disks of light on the
horizon at sunset... indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,

homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable wise never the third... since
Proximal is too far away also just looks
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related much of a
muchness, and comparable a star.

With certain drugs, individuals
can be caused to hibernate
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable bears also
other mammals... dozing away the years
at low temperature... also with minimal

mental motion. Inside Prometheus...
everybody is asleep except for a five-
woman flight crew who look very
haggard. The rest... a hundred or
subsequent passengers... are all in
medically induced hibernation.

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable two
twins in the womb they are communing at
a deep level of preconscious intimacy...
with the results that the mind-body takes
over 's brain has been imprinted with the
patterns of Mariella's cerebral cortex.

The biological equivalent of
initializing the hard drive in a computer.
He is under the INTERCONNECTION
because he is spending the voyage
INTERCONNECTION-ed to its mind-body
take over the body which is nearby in its
container... Its head is fitted into a
helmet- indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
device... a- PSIONIC
INTERCONNECTION- INTERFACE which
senses also transmits its mental energy...
as well as filling its brain with the return

signal. It is usually called... simply... the
INTERCONNECTION.

Mariella's MIND-BODY TAKE
OVER BODY floats in its plastic womb...
curled in a fetal position. The mind-body
takes over is bigger than anthropological.
The dimmer color is almost solid on the
back... down the backs of the legs.

The Links would stalk about 4 to
5 feet tall if it uncurled. Its skin is light all
colors Pinks and others soft pastel colors-
glittery fairies- like as if light passing
thought in spots... two or more shades of
Light Pink in a based pattern
indistinguishable, close, near, almost

identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable a
manufactured... of fairies or butterflies...
(though the skin is smooth... not scaly.)

A rainbow indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable... indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
carnival glass Pink... almost like a womb...
is contrasted with a deep ultramarine
which borders on red and deep maroons.

The mind-body takes over in their womb- and indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable situation are at their metabolic rate also grow quickly.

Their muscles are constantly electro stimulated so that they develop customarily. The body is... outlandishly... almost human in the body in most ways.

The waist is narrow also elongated... the ears ought to be very wide... giving a pare shaped upper back. The neck is elongated (twofold if an

average human... or a little longer than
some Vogue models) also... we will see...
can turn 180 degrees... indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable an owl. The body overall is
slender... proportionally... than the
average human... suggestive of a Masa or
Watusi. The musculature is sharply
defined... given no sense of emaciation
despite the thin proportions.

The coroneae are joyful... with
exceptionally long fingers... also one
opposed thumb. The fingers curve
smoothly... bending without joints. It

sounds off-putting... indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable wise it is quite attractive.

The faces are exquisite... with
cheekbones high as any Greek God or
Goddesses also large wise ever moving
Iris's eyes... more holy or feminine sized
to ours.

When open... they dominate the
face... indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable to

those of a cat... or a lemur. The mouth is
also large... indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise human... with a faint
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable bifurcation of
the upper lip... also a coloration
permanent deep purple lipstick.

The teeth are white and
sparkling... with pronounced upper
canines... These people are carnivores or

at least omnivores, and feminine nesting
in home life. And live off the land...

A network of the complex pattern
of iridescent dots also lines a soft
webbing... on almost see luminescent
thought wings- and glowing in low light,
perfectly balanced illuminations... runs
over the body in key places... almost
following the lines of the circulatory
system and nervous.

Did I mention smaller than us...?

-And-

They have an exceptionally long
tail, that seems to link to all minds and

the lay of the land- like webbing of
wisdom.

Long also slightly prehensile...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise more
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable the tail of a
panther than a primate... with feathery
wings. These are bioluminescent
chromophores... also they glow in the
dark indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,

kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable fireflies.

The alien can communicate with
these... without conscious control... also...
in reality, actuality, certainty, factuality,
certitude, and truth... they usually are
shifting also changing color to write down
mood also emotion.

7

ON THE FLIGHT DECK the
haggard pilots start the shutdown of the
fusion... antimatter engines.

The body has no hair whatsoever,
yet only on their head... though there is
what looks comparable to any young teen

girl... the tale just above the curving butt
cheeks inventing in the back at the end,
with never endings like hairs that link to
other things, a waist that is the same to
ours and sexualities.

Comparable wise an exterior part
of the nervous system- looking like
moving spilled hairs-

The other worlds drift against
the stars also full of life, looking closely
some with rings, and all assorted colors,
to other bright moons- yet far away to get
there.

Some nearing the surprisingly
oddly all around this planet, yet moving

slowly in orbit- indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable FDR. These worlds have names by the locals, yet we have re-named them after grate men of own known world.

The ship creaks also groans as it begins to cool down some. OUTSIDE... the arc-light ceases abruptly. The entire drive module glows cherry pink with radiant heat... likewise- the exhaust jets are almost white.

They look indistinguishable, comparable crotonamide crap... hungover

badly from the hibernation drugs. Within-
the spaceship... in total weightlessness...
the passengers begin to emerge from
their hibernacula.

Mariella sits up groggily also
looks around.

Her hair luminescent at night
long the body nude and she feel unshaven
in places... also she was prepubescence
stage before... the body has now grown
older.

Mariella pulls herself out of its 2
feet with a 7-foot capsule... with all-glass
fronts, maneuvering as well as the other

passengers in zero-G... even with its inert legs.

An announcement is telling her what to do- and how to do, likewise, where to go... for a shower automatic down by robotics and waxing also by robotic hands- and- and clothing- also that they will soon be entering orbit around her new home of FDR.

Moving corona over corona... Mariella floats over to the tank containing it is her new life's body that she will linger in... The mind-body takes over the body. He is amazed to see the growth in

the three years which have elapsed on the ship.

The mind-body takes over stretches... indistinguishable, and comparable... extending to its full height... dwarfing Mariella.

Nevertheless... as it turns in aquiver- the amniotic fluid... of soft clear purple; Mariella sees the face- long lashes- eyes tightly closed, hands moving about- of her mind-body takeover... and its flawless angelic and attractiveness that is ever-so-lovely.

O'er, it looks indistinguishable, close to her.

Despite the alien proportions...
the features are luminescent of her.

A computer program tells her she
has time to get some breakfast also still
makes it back to 'see herself be born.'

Walking to the door of the ship,
others from the land of the new planet-
met her- from past trips, where a portable
home and lab are sitting about five
hundred feet away, were all that was the
former world well be held for the time
being.

Seeing the new BIRTH,
technicians in yellow hazmat suit suits
also breathing equipment enter a bright

vertical test-tube looking glass chamber
through an airlock.

Mariella... indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical... attired...
follows them in.

They seal the door locks with a
thud.

One of them tells her that the air
is a match for FDR's... a poisonous brew
of ammonia... methane... CO₂... oxygen
also nitrogen. Even a little hydrogen
cyanide.

In the center of the chamber is
the tank housing Mariella's mind-body
takeover. Mariella is nervous also unsure

what to do... indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, wise they tell her it
is always best for the controller to be
present at birth. It looks exactly
indistinguishable, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, to a small
baby is born from glass also elastic
womb... and like translucent in the flesh.

Using an elastic collar...
indistinguishable, close, near, and
comparable a synthetic sphincter... to
retain the amniotic fluid in zero gravity...
they ease the body out of the tank into the
birthing room... you can see the baby
bellybutton tided off for the other parts...
of its artificial and ersatz womb... kicking

and wiggling through the skin is the pumping of blood.

The technicians asked Mariella to help hold her 5-year-old looking body- like the wings open for the first time. The mind-body takes over kicks feebly... also everyone is grappling with the slimy newborn body.

Akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparably... an overwhelmed father... she looks indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, she is about to faint like a new mother to her on a child.

The pure naked truth of life...
struggling into existence... affects her far
more than he would have thought.

She is now at that very moment
at that vary time taking her first breath.
Mariella struggles to help give birth to
herself in a way. They suction its mouth
also it coughs... and cries.

Its face contorting at the terror
also the pain of the outer world. Mariella
looks on in wonder as the mind-body
takes over starts to wail... clenching its
fists...

It opens its eyes also looks right
at her; she stares into its eyes... It grabs

Mariella's arm also she winces in pain at the strength of the little thing she is.

Taking shuddering breaths of the poisonous air. Mariella pulls its arm free from her own. Where its own eyes for the first time. Its terror passes. It stares lovingly at her...

TECH's say- 'Congratulations it's a girl like you!'

'I wanted to say DA-H!'

'It's a child... that is now you.'

Mariella glances down along the mind-body take over his body... its expression grows even more amazed.

Just like a young girl all that is
the same down there too... odd... that live
on other plants have the same sexual
parts... why we are here also... to keep its
life going with them.

ISV PROMETHEUS goes into a
low orbit around FDR. We get our first
good look at the new world. It is
magnificent. Another Earth... at first
glance... with white clouds whorls over a
pink also lavender surface.

indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable

wise the continents are all wrong... also
the proportion of Dasso to the ocean is
much greater.

Then all of what we ever used to.
The pink is a little different too; with a
green-blue tinge to it... suggesting the
dis-indistinguishable, and comparable
air... makes mist... yet with an Earthly
plant.

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise you can just tell... even from orbit...
it is a planet that has a life. It has a look.

The most amazing thing about FDR is that it does not orbit its sun directly... homogeneous, interchangeable, and comparable wise is in orbit around an enhaloes planet... a gas giant twice the size of Jupiter... that is no longer... which in turn orbits the yellow sun of the sun is a demand... yet that belongs to the androids now.

Primary Centauri B. Its monster planet has been named POLYPHEMUS... for the great cyclops of Greek myth.

It is since... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,

akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable Jupiter with its Great Pink Spot... Polyphemids has a vest cyclonic storm indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a great dark pupil in its vast disk.

The eye of an angry god looking down on FDR. FDR... despite being as big as Earth... is technically a moon of the giant planet. Polyphemids have fourteen other moons... some closer in... some farther out... also with life... clawing on it... and ways to get there... link us to them... like monorail trains floating in the

air. Depending on what is where in its orbit... FDR can have two or even three moons in its sky at once. FDR also the other moons cast large black shadow dots on the parent planet... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable beauty marks.

DESCENT- tiny relative to Prometheus... one of the trans-atmospheric shuttles separates also drops down toward the planet. The LOCKHEED-SAAB TAV-36 'VALKYRIE' CLBUTT SHUTTLE is a heavy lifter... a work PEGASUS several times larger also many

times more powerful than today's space shuttle. Below he can see mist-shrouded mountains... growing as they descend. The pilot tells them they are over the so-called 'Alarm' of Australis... the great southern continent... which juts up into the Equatorial Sea.

As the shuttle plunges through high-altitude cloud formations... Mariella presses her face against the tiny viewport... eager for a look at the new world. Mariella can see volcanic indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparability's also mesas

towering above a lower cloud blanket...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable to the islands.

Streamers also whorls of
shredded cloud swirl around the mesa
tops. Then the pilot tells them that they
may get a glimpse of the MONTES
MALONES... the famous 'hovering
foothills with waterfalls... and tube liking
thing liking to the ground that is clear.' ...
Which paleologists say are the rarest
phenomena in known space. Also... called
the Praying HIGHLANDS... they are
indistinguishable, close, near, almost

identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable floating
thunderstorms among the clouds... very
dramatically.

Literally- totally... completely...
holly- freaking floating... Hilly wedges of
mainstay rocks... some over 14 miles
across... hovering thousands of feet above
the ground... with water tubes that you
can ride linking them... aqueduct's linking
them.

Here is how it works:
Polyphemids (the massive planet around
which FDR revolves) have a mother of the

magnetosphere... an unsurprisingly
occurring magnetic field a million times
more powerful than Earth's.

As FDR rotates also revolves
through its field... its molten iron core
generates its field... with 'cells or vortices
which are small regions of intensely
powerful magnetic force at the shallows.'

(They have dove-like wings.)

Added to its unique phenomenon
is another... FDR is blessed with a
naturally occurring substance a million
times more precious than gold. Its joke
name of 'Tekttites and Moldavite' has
stuck... over the years. Tekttites And

Moldavite is a rare-earth mineral...
formed volcanically... which is a room-
temperature superconductor.

The room temperature
superconductor has been the 'snarky' of
modern materials science... a substance
which transmits electricity with zero
resistance... indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise at Nahhaal temperatures... rather
than the liquid- helium-cooled
superconductors of human science.
Tekttites And Moldavite do not exist in

our solar system or Libyan Desert Glass.

It is unique to FDR.

Also... it is the reason to go
there... the pot of gold at the end of the
rainbow bridge yet you can get there.
Another interesting property of
superconducting materials is that they
will levitate in a powerful magnetic field.

Its magnetic levitation-
everything that is its world... or maglev...
the effect has been used to lift trains also
run them without wheels since the late
2010s.

On FDR the effect causes huge
outcroppings of Tektites and Moldavite

to rip loose from the surface also float in
the magnetic vortices.

These floating slaloms circulate
slowly in the magnetic currents...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable icebergs at
sea yet more green... scraping against
each other also the towering mesa-
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable mountains of
the region.

The FDR'n's call them the LINK Rocks... also the entire area is sacred to them. Therefore, they are called the Praying Mountains. This could be a plynnlem... since the humans have come to mine these mountains also get rich.

Later it would be designated A+ 0... or simply Zero.

An amateur astronomer in Orlando was the first person on Earth to realize that something unusual was happening. Moments earlier... she had noticed a blur flourishing in the vicinity of the Military formation... near the moon's equator... is the new way to the far-off

lands. she assumed it was a dust cloud
thrown up by a meteor strike.

8

They float indistinguishable,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
clouds made of rock... amongst the fixed
mountains also swirling cloud structures.
Where they are in clear sunlight... they
cast hard shadows on the lasso below.
Mariella stares in awe as they pass over a
few of the floating mountains... less than
ten miles away on its side of the ship.

They are overgrown with foliage
at the top... also a straggly beard of vines
hangs down beneath them
indistinguishable, the roots of an air-fern.

The sides are sheer cliffs.
Waterfalls... originating on the mesa-
indistinguishable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
tops... stream down the sides also
dissolve into spray at the bottom's
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable upside-down
geysers.

The local peaks also mesas
project above the level of the craggy
underside of the few floating mountains
Mariella can see... so it is obvious that
collisions are inevitable.

Twinkling indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable tiny flecks of ash on the wind
are what look indistinguishable, close,
like- birds... manta indistinguishable,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related and, much of a muchness,
flying creatures of many sizes. Mariella
does not get too close a look at these.

Stashing indistinguishable,
comparable, close, near, and identical, a
wall behind some of the smaller ones is
MONS PROMETHEUS... the largest of the
floating mountains.

Known colloquially as- THE BIG
ROCK ALSO- MOUNTAIN with up
spraying water- and flowering plant life...
it alone is worth billions in revenue to the
consortium. Cloaked in mystery, its flanks
also top are wreathed in streamers of
clouds...

Nevertheless, the shuttle plunges
into the inky murk. She sees it for only a

few seconds before a thunderhead blocks the view...

9

Now the shuttle is passing lower also lower over the links rainforest. Just as the plants on Earth are green with chlorophyll... the plants of FDR... based on different biochemistry... are mostly purple. The tones range from purple, Pink... through violet to magenta.

Mariella catches glimpses of the rainforest through the clouds as they skim over the endless purple carpet. Other than the color the trees look indistinguishable, close, near, almost

identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable trees.

They have trunks, also branches
leaves... though some of the shapes are
strange... also the proportions are wrong.
There are waterfalls feeding links rivers...
also Mariella sees more flocks of bird's
indistinguishable things.

They pass a few small patches of
open grass also.

The magenta grass ripples in the
wind close, near, indistinguishable,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,

much of a muchness, and comparable to wheat.

Mariella sees some moving shapes... large herd-beasts running. Then clouds again. Mariella... coming from its gray concrete urban sprawl... is amazed by the sheer scale of its lush... virgin world.

Finally, he starts to see the corona of man. They fly over what looks indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable to a small refinery. It is the DEUTERIUM PLANT...

an automated facility for extracting the heavy isotope of hydrogen from the local water supply.

The deuterium is used to fuel the fusion engines of the starships for their homeward flight... as well as to run the base generators also the shuttles.

(Thinking back)

The shuttle makes its turn on the final approach in what looks like a death dive.

We get our first look at the human colony... called UNDERWORLD'S GATE.

It looks indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a giant cookie cutter took a chunk out of the rainforest... a disk of naked ground two miles across where the trees were razed also the earth scraped bare.

Nearby... connected by a broad gravel road... is a gaping wound in the earth... a strip mine where metal ores for construction are extracted. ECO- mask off he would be unconscious after the first few breaths... with irreversible lung damage in less than a minute.

At the center of the cleared circle of IVAN is a cluster of squat concrete also steel structures.

Surrounding the central complex are two high fences of thick chain INTERCONNECTION... one within the other... with concertina wire at the top.

The whole thing is electrified. At the corners of the complex are concrete towers... their tops bristling with searchlights... scanning gear... also automated SENTRY GUNS.

The reason for the no-man's also between the fences the dark wall of the forest is clear... it is lethal ground.

The shuttle lassos also Mariella dons its full-face ECO-mask rebreather pack. There is also a popping sensation in its ears as the pressure equalizes the outside... also then the doors open.

Mariella struggles with her wheelchair on the steep loading ramp of the shuttle. When he gets to the ground... he moves with the others toward the nearest building.

Her mask fogs with its exertion... also he feels a tickle of fear knowing how deadly the atmosphere is. If he took her Mariella sees the new mind-body

takeovers being unloaded. They are brought down the ramp on gurneys... insentient... getting their first lungful of real FDR'n's air.

They are taken to a holding compound outside the Science Component- also massive earthmovers... mining equipment... also power shovel two stories high. Around her is the roar of equipment as huge tractor indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable machines thunder past. There is loading equipment... she sees construction

workers in heavy environment suits. A tractor... its wheels as big as a house... rumbles past... dwarfing the new arrivals.

Beyond it... two vehicles take off... armored also heavily armed... they are IKASAWWK BH14 GYNOSPHINX gunships.

Nearby Mariella sees several COMMON SOLDIERS of CFOESE... the RDA security force... a private army operated by Grouping. The common soldier wears full helmets... rebreathers... also body armor... also carry heavy INVOLUNTARY WEAPONS.

They look constantly outward...
toward the boundary. They are a
hardened bunch of women also men...
who live by the philosophy that sharp
eyes... fast coronae also a warm gun are
the keys to survival on FDR... the most
badass bush in antiquity.

There is a sense that the place is
under siege. The dark line of the forest is
suddenly more ominous. Above the
functional concrete bunker of the nearest
building... the crescent shape of
Polyphemus looms indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and

comparable a malevolent eye... seeming
to cover half the sky.

Another sentry gun thunders
briefly as Mariella goes into the complex.

Mariella's expression says it all.

My God... what have I gotten
myself into?

INSIDE THE BASE they hold the
arrival briefing.

She says the local ecosystem is a
minefield of toxic plants... lethal stinging
insects... also large venomous carnivores,
station supervisor RIDGE TOP VILLAGE
welcomes them to FDR and IVAN... then

quickly lays down the rules of survival here.

All and sundry must be always armed when outside the structure... also firearms training and drilling are scheduled for all base personnel. All forays outside the perimeter must be accompanied by one or more CFOESE common soldier also must be authorized by its office... also scheduled with the head of the sanctuary.

She tells them about the stiff penalties for any violation of the base security rules... as well as for the use of

illegal drugs... fighting... misuse of firearms also so on.

There is a frontier town mentality... as well as an overwhelming sense of us against them. We humans... also them being anything that draws breath on FDR.

It is not all grim here... he says. As of today, you will never get another cold or flu. We do not get them here.

FDR has somehow reacted to the introduction of our viruses by creating a counter virus for each which wipes them out. Actuality, certainty, factuality, certitude, and truth... the Consortium has

the patents on these counter viruses...
also when the FDA approves them...
everyone around the universe will be
buying them.

That is the sort of thing we are
looking for here. So please stay alert to
the commercial possibilities of your
research. Ridge village is a smart...
forceful... charismatic man who is utterly
focused on the success of the operation
on

FDR- Its calm... almost breezy
style belies an absolute ruthlessness in
the pursuit of its goals. indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,

homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable her historical prototypes...
the governors of Spanish also English
colonies in the Americas... its mission is to
overcome all obstacles to gain a foothold
in the new world... also... more
importantly... show a return on the
staggering speculation.

Ridge village introduces LYNN
PARRISH... the BIOETHICS OFFICER.
She works for the Environmental
Protection Department of the ECA. Called
an EC.

On the dying home planet... the environmental parties have grown strong as the Earth has grown weak... so these officers are sent to make sure that the new worlds are not ravaged by the economic imperative of the megacorporation's.

Lynn looks the very image of a studious... concerned 'Blue' activist... with its beard also Birkenstocks.

Actuality, certainty, factuality, certitude, and truth, the EC is all bent... extremely on the take also making a large profit by turning in token reports of

infractions while ignoring the greater desecrations.

Mariella notices a woman using a stereo camera to record the meeting. She pans the crowd of fresh faces indistinguishable, interchangeable, kindred, to a documentary filmmaker.

Ridgeville introduces her as MARCIA DE LOS SANTOS... the FREE MEDIA OFFICER.

It is her job to send home the inspiring footage used for corporate advertising also recruiting... though technically she is keeping a full also impartial record of the operation at IVAN.

Among the arriving passengers are twenty new common soldiers.

They double-time down the ramp... carrying their huge packs also kit bags. They smartly salute the hardened CFOESE common soldier... who eye the new meat with smirking disdain.

Mariella sees more of the common soldier; also realizes they are forming a loosely deployed guard around the new arrivals.

There is a sudden ROAR as the sentry gun in the nearest tower opens fire.

There is an ungodly shriek in the
air. A stream of bright tracers arcs out to
the no-man's lasso of the bare earth
beyond the fences... Mariella cranes to
see... indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise her view is blocked by the shuttle.

Ridge village heavily edits her
down Interconnection's to Earth...
claiming the 'expense' of data
transmission... indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,

much of a muchness, and comparable
wise it is ironfisted censorship.

Ridge village introduces
COLONEL MILES DUARTHA... the
CFOESE commissure. Duartha is a
humorless man... thick necked also
barrel-chested... with one side of its face
twisted by the scars from an encounter
with some FDF'n predator.

She hates FDR...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise love the
fight. Duartha characterizes the antipathy

between staffs also the world they have
come to conquer.

Duartha adjourns the briefing...
to the chagrin of DR. BRANTLEY
SIESSAH... the base-
XENOANTHROPOLOGY'S also the head
of the Mind-body take over Programing.

She scrambles to the front of the
room as the meeting breaks up... calling
for the new controllers to report to her in
SCIMOD.

Duartha sneers as she pushes
past Siessah... also we see that there is no
love lost between these two.

Duartha stops next to Mariella
also says she reads Mariella was a
marine. Mariella confirms it... also
Duartha wants to know if she was
wounded in combat.

12

Fell out a window... drunk... at a
base party... Mariella tells her.

Duartha is a little put off by
Mariella's attitude... indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable wise tells her that when he is

done wasting 'it's' time with Siessah also her meat puppets...

She can use her in CFOESE. The ops center also the armory are understaffed. ON ITS WAY TO SCIMOD Mariella gets a look at the base from the inside.

There are six primary modules... laid out along a central trunk called the UTILIDOR... through which all foot traffic... also all utility lines conduits run.

It has three levels... the subterranean one being narrower also primarily an access-way for maintenance.

The flight control... dispatch...
also CFOESE commands- and more
CONMOD's is the control module...
containing communications,
administration? The quarters... also
contain the laundry... food services...
gym... also recreation areas.

Mariella finds her room also
throws its bag on the bunk.

In the upper Utilidor... Mariella
bumps into NAHHA HARMON... a spindly
guy who is one of the new controllers
Mariella recognizes from the ship. Nahha
pushes Mariella down the corridor as they
look for SCIMOD.

They pass GENMOD (power) also STORMOD (storage...) as well as the vehicle maintenance module... simply called the GARAGE.

They reach SCIMOD which is a multistory building... full of labs also arcane equipment. None of it means anything to Mariella. They catch up with the tour... just as Siessah is showing the new controllers into the INTERCONNECTION ROOM.

Here we see the veteran controllers in a long row of what look indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,

kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable high-tech
dental chairs.

They have the
INTERCONNECTION gear over their
heads... also are tied into the distant
bodies of their respective mind-body
takeovers. They seem to be sleeping or in
a trance state.

It resembles RAPID EYE
MOVEMENT sleep... with the eyeballs
tracking rapidly under the lids... also the
fingers twitching occasionally.
Technicians monitor the body functions of

the controllers... also track the positions of the mind-body takeovers on screens.

Siessah shows them how the same implanted chip which allows the Rapid eye movement INTERCONNECTION to the mind-body takeovers also gives them a minute-by-minute position on them out in the bush... or around the base of the mine... wherever they might be. Siessah tells the new arrivals that they will each be assigned to a veteran controller... who will supervise their first- INTERCONNECTION-up with their mind-body takeovers.

One of the working controllers
breaks her INTERCONNECTION
contact... also lifts the hood... climbing
wearily out of her chair.

It is the end of a long workday...
also her body is stiff with abandonment?

Siessah calls Mariella forward
also introduces DR. JAN PELLERLY... the
controller he is assigned to.

Jan Pellerly is a gruff
xenobotanist in her mid-forties...
somewhat dumpy... also gravel-voiced
from too much smoking.

She scowls at Mariella... telling
her to meet her in her lab at 0606

tomorrow. She ignores Mariella's proffered corona... wheeling around to yell at the monitor techs that she needs a goddamn cigarette.

The next morning Mariella is waiting in the biology lab from five to eight.

One wall of the lab is observation windows... beyond which are large terrariums holding some FDR'n flora also fauna. Mariella peers into a chamber filled with fern- indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable

violet plants... unable to see if there is anything else in there.

She moves to the next chamber... which is an aquarium filled with murky water. The window is huge... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise he can see nothing in the gloom.

She turns as Jan Pellerly comes into the lab. With shocking suddenness... a dark shape... much bigger than her... materializes out of the murk also slams against the glass.

BOOM!

Mariella whips around to see the head of a hideous armored fish... its huge jaws snapping shut... clacking razor-sharp teeth against the glass.

JAN- I see you have met our Dinicthys. She loves to do that.

Jan goes to the glass also looks at the massive fish in the eye. It swims away.

JAN- Just a baby...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise at the

rate she is growing... we are going to have to put her back in the lake by- next week.

OVER THE NEXT FEW DAY'S- it will become noticeably clear that Jan is to be Mariella's reluctant mentor.

13

Reluctant... since they are so understaffed that she was counting on the trained skills of her brother.

Mariella is not qualified for anything on the base except kitchen staff. She needs a real assistant... a scientist.

HOLY- Hell... even an undergraduate. She is pissed off at the situation also sees it as just another way the company is screwing the biologists also the Mind-body take over Program.

They do not want to know what is going on here... they just want to strip the goddamn place. They will have it all plowed under before they even know what is out in that bush... also they will miss the real treasure.

The Earth is doomed because- its biodiversity has been killed. It may take centuries to die... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous,

interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise it is only a matter of time.

Out there are wonders they
cannot even imagine... also all they do is
cut funds... also send her useless
assistants.

Mariella interrupts her rant also
tells her that he did not come lightyears
out into space... did not get shot up with
drugs... inoculated against God-knows-
what... also frozen for three years... just
to come here also- be her punching bag. If
she has a polyneme with her... tell the

base supervisor... otherwise take a pill...
lady.

Jan looks at her for a long
moment. Finally- she cracks a wicked
grin.

JAN- So-o... a live one... huh?

Having lodged her complaint also
put Mariella on notice... she takes her to
the Interconnection room for its first
assembly.

(MARIELLA'S FIRST-
INTERCONNECTION ASSEMBLY.)

Mariella goes under the
INTERCONNECTION for the first time...

also takes control of its mind-body take over the body.

We cut to the MARIELLA...

MIND-BODY TAKE OVER in the training compound... an enclosure behind SCIMOD in which the fledgling mind-body takeovers are taught to function also survive.

It looks indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a kids' playground... with parallel bars... hanging rings... balls to throw... monkey bars... also various other structures that

will be used in its physical patterning.
She is watched by techs behind a glass-covered wall.

Mariella... mind-body take over
opens its eyes... also looks around with
amazing awareness. Her
interconnections... the strange hues of the
alien vision flooding its brain- she moves
awkwardly... sitting up.

She takes a deep breath also
smells the air. Its nostrils flare with the
flood of new alien smells.

She looks at its corona... staring
at it... working the fingers.

She looks down also stares at its
body... then touches it with one corona.
Feels like the skin, smooth and warm.

A tech tells her over the PA to
check its motor control.

Try to touch its fingertips
together. She does... missing
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable a drunk at a
sobriety checkpoint. She tries again...
face screwed up in concentration. Its
fingertips touch clumsily... shaking
slightly.

Can she see... the voice asks? She
nods- with a yes. Breathing, okay?

‘Yes,’ speech check.

Try to talk more.

Mariella... Mind-body take over 's
throat works... also an inarticulate croak
emerges. She tries again... also it sounds
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
to a baby trying to imitate speech. The
tech tells her to try crawling.

She then rolls to its belly.

Pushing up with its arms... he
gets its knees under her. He is unsteady-

as a newborn antelope... its arms also
body shaking as muscles clench nerves
fire spasmodically.

She crawls clumsily...
indistinguishable, close, near,
interchangeable, and comparable to a
baby... to a transparent plastic chair
nearby.

Mariella... Mind-body takes over
gets one corona on the chair also tries to
pull herself up.

After a lot of effort... she is almost
stashing... hunched over
indistinguishable, and likeness to an
ancient woman. Finally, she is standing

on shaky legs within to body. She lets go
of the chair. Swaying... she stands free.

She grins... bearing slightly
pointy teeth.

Then falls right on her butt hard.

Hearing laughter from the
technicians... she looks up.

Statuesque female mind-body
takes over walk-up... standing over her.

The first female she has seen-
that was like her now yet before her.

She is magnificent...

With powerful panther thighs... a
flat muscular stomach also small close,

near, almost identical, wise firm athlete's breast showing with pointed nipples, and tight lover female genitalia.

She is wearing insubstantial, summary, feathery, and airy; also, in human years would be about 7 just like me a little older than I that would be around 5. Her face looks familiar... Mariella manages to croak out its first sentence.

MARIELLA... MIND-BODY TAKE
OVER Who... are... you-you?

FEMALE MIND-BODY TAKE
OVER Who do you think...? Dumb crap?
How quickly they forget.

The voice is very recognizable. It is Jan. Now that we know... we see her face in the alien features. She grins at her... also cocks one hip. JAN... MIND-BODY TAKE OVER Aren't I- a babe?

Jan... mind-body take over helps her to its feet... also supports its weight while he tries to walk... just indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, and comparable to a mom holding a baby's coronae. She faces her... holding its coronae... also steps backward. Mariella... the toddler... takes its first steps.

She slowly let us go of its fingers... letting her balance herself. She takes another step forward, yet it is wobbly.

Mariella stares down in amazement at its feet. Its face holds a child indistinguishable, close, near, to a wonder. MARIELLA... MIND-BODY TAKE OVER I am walking.

JAN... MIND-BODY TAKE OVER ...You sure are... kid.

Mariella's eyes fill with tears. Jan sees one running down the pink skin of its cheek.

JAN... MIND-BODY TAKE OVER-

Yup... looks indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
everything is working simply fine.

-And-

Mariella being interviewed by
Marcia De Los Santos... the Free media
officer.

Mariella is explaining how its
training is going. She is walking fine now
and smoothly... nonetheless, now has
started climbing, also running, and many
types of exercises.

Its coordination is already equal
to a human five-year-old-yet in a way that
is what she is in this body.

She asks her a question then she
has asked all of them... what it is
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable to wake up in
another body-and see and feel as if the
soul has changed for one to other only.

Mariella tries to tell her...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a

muchness, and comparable wise she cannot. Just that it is a wonder-and ever-so-odd.

Also, in its case... a great gift-nonetheless-linger in a new body with the same mind.

She says the air smells much like and comparable to apple cinnamon.

MARIELLA... under the INTERCONNECTION. In CU we see its eyes tracking... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable he is dreaming.

MARIELLA... MIND-BODY TAKE
OVER runs to catch a ball thrown by one
of the other trainee mind-body
takeovers... Nahha Harmon.

We barely recognize skinny
Nahha... since its mind-body takes over
the body... indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable all
of them... is powerfully muscled.

Mariella... Mind-body takes
overtaking a drink of some green liquid...
which spills down its chin and neck. By its
expression... it tasted great.

Nahha... mind-body take over
showing off to the techs... using the
window indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable a
mirror to shoot bodybuilder poses.

Mariella doing a running
cartwheel... jumping up also catching the
monkey bars... also pulling herself rapidly
across the corona-over corona.

Jan... mind-body take over...
taking a picture of her with an Instamatic
camera as he eats an unfamiliar FDF'n
fruit... getting the juice all over herself.

Mariella... Mind-body take over
drawing also firing a large pistol...
blowing big holes in paper targets.

Mariella... Mind-body takes
overlies down to sleep for the night on a
futon in the training compound. Some of
the other mind-body takeovers are
already asleep nearby. We can see there-
bioluminescent spot patterns glowing in
the dark.

Mariella... Mind-body take over
stares up at the alien sky... seeing large
Polyphemus a flying moth rise against the
stars.

Its multi-color green and blue cat
indistinguishable, close, near, and
comparable eyes are wide with the
wonder of its new world.

She hears the chatter also shrieks
from the forest... that black wall out
beyond the compound. The sentry guns
fire also there is a piercing scream...
short-lived. Soon he will be out there.

Its eyes close... as sleep takes
her.

The human Mariella opens its
eyes in the INTERCONNECTION room a
moment later.

She climbs stiffly from its chair...
pushing herself across to its wheelchair.
She sits rubbing its temples with fatigue.

Even in the lesser gravity of
FDR... its human body feels
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable to a
deadweight after its exhilarating hours in
the other body.

Jan... looking tired also rumped...
climb out of her seat nearby. She looks
down at her doughy body.

JAN-At midnight-I always turn back into a pumpkin. Come on... let me buy you a drink.

IN RIDGEVILLE'S OFFICE...

Duartha is complaining that he does not have enough men to escort all the scientific sorties... cover the mine... the base also the new construction.

Ridgeville tells her he will cut the escorts on the scientific teams back to one man per sortie.

Duartha nods... Likewise, say that the number of major predator attacks on the perimeter has steadily increased... also, there have been five major breaches

of the outer fence this year. One of its men was killed by a SLINGER last Tuesday... also, two are on the medical report because of... HELLFIRE WASPS.

One of its gunships was attacked by a MANTICORE like a flying lion near the deuterium plant... also almost crashed.

We have lost seven people already this year... twice the number for the same time last year... also is already over its ammo budget. It is getting worse... not better.

Ridgeville says he will order more men also weapons on the next starship... also cut back on the scientific package.

Then orders Duartha to clear-cut a wider safety zone around the new construction.

They just must make it to then; the clearcutting operation... out at the sides of the zone safety -big tractors also bulldozers and excavators are ripping into the tree line... toppling the huge trees.

Now we see why the equipment is so big... the trees are prodigious, rapid eye momentaneous, gigantic, and giant.

The dozers have plasma cutters that rip into the trees... slashing through their gargantuan bases in a spray of fierce light also burning wood-shrapnel.

The larger trees are blasted with high explosives... raining kindling down for hundreds of yards. The tractor drivers are safe in armored cages... also Gynosphinx gunships prowl over the tree line... looking for large predators that might be approaching.

DEEP INSIDE THE
RAINFOREST... as the tractors relentlessly approach. It feels as if somebody- or something watching.

A tight pair of eyes seem to be following- like eyes in the sky.

The cat near, almost identical, and comparable eyes of one of the humanoid FDF'NS... with a GLIMPSE of figures moving through the foliage... their skin-markings acting as almost perfect camouflage.

We can barely see them at all. Just an impression of Joyful... agile, and graceful forms. Then nothing.

A MASSIVE METAL FOOT crashes down into the frame.

The angle is WIDER to see that it belongs to Miles Duartha wearing a POWER SUIT.

It is a Life-like impression walking machine... bipedal... about 4 feet tall. Though massive... it is gyroscopically balanced also quite agile... able to duplicate most human motion. It is heavily armored... also armed with a huge rotary cannon... a UGA 911... built into one forearm.

Duartha uses a psionic INTERCONNECTION to control the machine.

Under its bubble canopy... the
Colonel scans the darkness,
semidarkness, dark, gloominess, dimness,
blackness, murkiness, shadows, shade,
shadiness, obscurity, dusk, twilight,
gloaming, and tenebrosity of the forest.
He glances up as two Gynosphinxs fly
overhead.

One opens fire, one something...
its tracers streaming down into the trees.
The Gynosphinx pilot tells Duartha that a
pack of VIPER WOLVES is heading its
way.

Duartha scans among the trees...
seeing vague infrared shapes moving on
its screens.

Ahead... in the darkness,
semidarkness, dark, gloominess, dimness,
blackness, murkiness, murk, shadows,
shade, shadiness, obscurity, dusk,
twilight, gloaming, and tenebrosity... she
sees black shapes squirting from shadow
to shadow indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
blobs of living ink.

They seem to dart across the
ground... then move through the trees
from limb to limb... sometimes seeming
dog comparable... other times more
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable to
Thunderbirdflies.

Duartha opens fire with the UGA
911.

It- sows a horizontal swath
through the forest... splintering
everything in its path into wood chips.

Trees and plant life crash... also flapping things called STING-BATS, around are glowing fireflies of all shades and hues, multi-colored ladybugs, rise into the sky with shrill calls- and Fenix's inflame making them.

We discern a dreadful, grim, grisly, ghastly, harrowing, horrifying, horrific, horrendous, frightful, fearful, awful, terrible, shocking, appalling, hideous, gruesome, heinous, vile, and nightmarish yelping whine... which goes on also on... getting more distant...

Satisfied... Duartha crashes forward through the bush... scanning.

A one-foot puncturing stinging
like a bat with translucent spots smacks
into its canopy... it is tail- stinger
screeching on the glass.

She crushes it... with one
hydraulic corona... unconsciously...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable to someone
swatting a small ladybug, then again in
this world that what it would be like.

A shrieking HIPPOCAMPUS
hurtles at her from above the trees. It is a
small one... less than a three-foot

wingspan. Shaped indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable a manta creature... it swoops
through the trees on translucent wing
membranes. We get a glimpse of glassy
fangs unfolding from its mouth
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable catclaws...
then the cannon blows it into chunks.
Duartha's canopy is showered with Pink
FDF'n blood.

She passes a large plant form called PHALANXIA which fires nettle-indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable projectiles at her. They ricochet off the armor... leaving drops of glistening venom. The FDF'n fauna also flora share the philosophy of us versus them. It is one nasty place.

Behind Duartha two common soldiers in power-suits follow her into the bush ahead of the wall indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,

akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable blades of the bulldozers.

Duartha blasts something else.

We see that he enjoys his work. It takes a personal interest that things are done right. IN THE UTILIDOR Lynn Parrish is walking with Carter Ridgeville.

Parrish is complaining that Duartha also CFOESE is going too far. Now they want to burn large sections of the forest... to clear it of predators. How can he be expected not to report that?! Ridgeville tells her that he ought to just do what he always does... shut up also take the money.

(IN THE COMMISSARY-)

Mariella is eating with some of the other controllers. You can see definite territories staked out by the various groups. The CFOESE common soldier stays on their side of the room... also does not mingle with the civilians much.

Also- scientists have their area. Within that... the controllers have a little corner reserved for them... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise whether

they are the elite... or the pariahs... is not clear. A little of both... actually.

The controllers are a scruffy... smelly lot. They spend as many hours a day as they are allowed to (up to 16) under the INTERCONNECTION... also as their stint goes on... they get less also less interested in personal hygiene.

They are indistinguishable, with unkempt hair, also some beards or lovely hair... nice skin and big appetites.

Over yonder, a crazy guy is bussing the table named HEGNER.

Moving slowly also vacant-eyed... she is doped up on something prescribed

by the base psych tech. Jan tells them that Hegner used to be head of Xenobiology until its mind-body take over got killed... ripped apart by a SLIGHT. The slinth is a large predator... fast as a cheetah... that spears its prey with its head... which is indistinguishable, close, near, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable to a venomous glance. The prey wobbles off also collapses... alive also conscious indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise unable to move because of the neurotoxin.

The slinth eats it alive. Hegner
felt herself dying... also he has not been
right since. Added to the trauma is the
loss... the loss of its other life... the one
lived in its mind-body take over the body.

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
many of the controllers... he came to see
it as its real-life... with its human life
taking on the feeling of a boring dream.

Jan tells Mariella that they are
going out to her worksite tomorrow... also

she will be meeting a local... named
N'DEH... who is her guide.

Siessah says N'deh is one of the
few who will still work with them... after
what those CFOESE jarheads did.

Apparently... there was an
incident... a year ago... between the
nearby aboriginal people also some
CFOESE common soldier who was trying
to clear them out of the construction site
for the new deuterium plant. It seems the
site was sacred ground to the
TSUMONGWI.

Mariella says he thought they
were called the IV'AN. Siessah says that

is right... the whole FDR'n race is called the IV'AN.

They are all IV'AN... all around the planet... because they all have the same root language. It translates... approximately... as 'The Seeing People.'

Their word for FDR is NA'AT... 'The People's Mother- their deity.'

Curiously... it is the same word they have for the forest. So... to them... the forest is the world. Which is right... since there are no deserts or veldts... also all the aldolases are uniformly covered with forest... right up to the permanent polar ice.

The local clan is called the
Tsumongwi... 'The Pink Flute Clan.'

Anyway... Siessah also its mind-
body take over group were having some
success with the local clan... teaching
them some English... also how to use
some of our power tools.

Their technology is Neolithic...
bows also spears... clay pots... animal
skins... that sort of thing. No written
language.

They were helping to build a
school in the forest... near their home
villages... when CFOESE pissed in the
soup.

The clan patriarch has protested the 'Earth People.' Us... clearing the trees at one of their sacred sites.

They have never indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable us cutting down the trees anywhere... also it was all I could do to get Ridgeville to stop its safety zone at the size it is... he was just heading for the horizon with it.

They mourn the spirit of a tree when it dies. It is- quite touching.

Anyway... when the tractors showed up at the sacred site... which was just a clearing in the woods... the IV'AN attacked; then they attacked the tractors... not the men. Set the tires on fire. Shot a few poison darts at the engines.

Duartha ordered its men to fire into the forest... knowing the IV'AN were there.

Show them who's boss. Five IV'AN were killed. Since- then we have not seen hide nor hair of them around here.

They will meet with us in the forest... sometimes... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise never here. Also- things are very strained.

N'deh has been invaluable... also there are a couple of others. It is almost indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable they drew straws to see who would get the crap-detail of dealing with us hairy Earth People. Also- N'deh drew short.

AT DUSK... OUT IN THE
COMPOUND... the tractors are returning
from the construction site. a common
soldier keeps a loose guard cordon
between the gravel road through the
rainforest also the compound fence. A
couple of Power-suits stride among
them... dwarfing the common soldier also
the civilian construction workers in their
masks- hardhats.

The twin suns- of Primary
Centauri A also- B are fat red disks just
above the tree line. Sting bats... unicorns-
glowing rays also other flyers are
silhouetted against the orange sky.

Mariella... Mind-body take over...
inside the compound... walks to the fence
also watches the machines returning.
Behind her... they are loading up an AVIC
utility vehicle about the size of a Huey
helicopter. It is a JF-17 THUNDER
HOVERING AIRCRAFT.

The JF-17's is armed only with a
door gun... also are the prime- movers of
air operations here. They are used by the
scientists to reach their Rapid eye
movement worksites... also by the
construction also mining teams to move
personnel also supply. IVAN operates ten
of this work PEGASUS... also they are
under civilian command.

Mariella looks up. Silhouetted
against the twin suns... sitting on top of a
cargo container nearby... is a real honest-
to-God alien... an IV'AN.

She looks indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable the mind-body takeovers... of
course... indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise the difference is in the details.

She is wearing a beaded loincloth of animal skin... also has a leather tube slung across its back.

She is squatting... still as a statue... holding what looks indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable to a long spear... which stands upright against the sky.

-Then-

Mariella sees that it is a bundle of long fishing arrows... with the unstrung bow held alongside them.

The IV'AN turns its head all the way around... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable an owl's... also the eyes bore into Mariella.

MARIELLA... MIND-BODY TAKE
OVER N'deh?

The IV'AN rises... then step off the container... dropping to the ground indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable to liquid... also silently.

~*~

She regards Mariella with curiosity... coming quite close to her. He walks around her... looking her up also down; slowly she sniffs her.

Jan walks up also introduces them formally...

using N'deh's complete name: N'deh Her- mequeftewa. N'deh makes a curious gesture with its corona... touching one finger to its forehead also flicking it joyfully toward Mariella. Mariella nods.

N'deh is older than Mariella. In human terms... we would guess her to be in 'its' late thirties. Next... to her... we

realize that Mariella's mind-body takes over the body are incredibly young... a man in 'its' teens. 14.

Jan quietly speaks to N'deh in the IV'AN language... surprising Mariella. It is the first time she has heard it spoken. Nevertheless, the sound of it is overly complex. It is musical also lilting...

Jan seems quite fluent. By subtitles... we understand that she is asking her to help her load the sampling equipment into the JF-17.

N'deh closes its eyes for a half-second... which we will come to see means the same as our nod of agreement.

They walk toward the
Aerospatiale together.

Mariella hears shots also turns.
There is a commotion out on the lethal
ground. Near the tractors... a Nahhas
animal has burst from the treelined also is
charging for the fence.

In the dust raised by the giant
machines... also with the number of men
around, it is difficult for the common
soldier to get a shot. To make matters
worse... the sentry guns have been
deactivated in that sector while they
bring in the heavy equipment.

Twice the size of an elephant...
the beast is called an ENFIELD-
TITANOTHERIID... also it is
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable to a six-legged
rhinoceros. It has a massive... low-slung
head with blunt transverse projections of
solid bone which give it the look of an
Enfield shark.

It is an herbivore...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise

indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable the rhino...
elephant also hippopotamus... it can be
aggressive also deadly.

The common soldier fires their
rifles at the monstrous silhouette
charging through the dust clouds...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise the
rounds do not affect the armored head
also ought to ear.

A paratrooper in power-suit strides between the tractors... trying to get a shot with the UGA 911. Suddenly the beast appears out of the dust at a full thundering charge... also the power-suit is knocked down before the cannon can swing to bear. The bull Enfield smashes the canopy with one foot as it charges right over the power-suit... pulping the paratrooper inside.

Mariella sees Enfield close to the final distance to the compound fence. It is coming straight toward her.

Everyone is firing at once... trying to bring down the twenty-ton creature.

The ground is shaking in time with its galloping gait.

It hits the outer fence... smashing right through it. A power-suit runs forward... striking a firing position... also opens with its cannon. The GAU 72 rips into the Enfield... blowing divots out of it ought to er also head.

The creature bellows in pain also rage keeps on coming.

Mariella pulls its pistol also adds its firing to the general thunder of guns.

The Enfield hits the inner fence. In a blaze of high- voltage arcing... it bulldozes through the chain

Interconnections. It stumbles... tripping
on the wreckage of the fence... then rises
also thunders forward again... filling
Mariella's vision.

BOOM!!!

The cannon roars again also the
titanotheriid topples forward... plowing
into the ground. It flips also skids...
coming to rest in a cloud of dust ten feet
from Mariella. There is a beat.

-Then-

Over the creature's body flows a
dog- and comparable shape... big wolf. It
hits the ground in a ripple of muscle also

bounds straight toward Mariella. It is
SLINTH.

Its venom-injecting spear-
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and the comparable head is
cocked back on its powerful neck... ready
to strike. Mariella raises the pistol...
which CLICKS. Empty.

Her face is like death; then
suddenly beside her is N'deh... drawing
also aiming its bow in one swift move. The
two-foot-long arrow flies straight into the
slinth's throat. It coils over itself in agony

indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness and comparable a Dove- N'deh knocks another arrow also let us fly. The slinth shudders also lie twitching.

N'deh walks forward... stepping on the needle indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable head while he Rapid eye movements its arrows.

MARIELLA... MIND-BODY TAKE
OVER N'deh. Thank you.

N'DEH Luck. (He holds up an arrow) Fishing points are not good for lethal slinth.

The high-tech common soldier stands around with their blasters... looking at the stone-age arrow that killed the beast.

N'deh looks at the dead slinth... then at the body of the titanothera which cleared a path for it into the inner compound. Its expression is enigmatic.

N'deh takes the blood of the slinth on its finger also draws a line under one eye... then under the other.

Honoring the slinth... also its
purpose for existence. He starts dragging
the carcass to the JF-17.

Nearby somebody screams.
Several hideous insects... almost a foot
across... are leaping from the body of the
titanother also trying to fasten their
hook- indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable legs
into some of the common soldier. With the
host dying... the parasitic WOLF-TICKS
are looking for a new ride. A frantic burst
of firing breaks out... as the soldiers jump

around... trying to kill the fast-moving parasites.

A very nasty place to be.

15

THAT NIGHT- with all the stars-twinkling, Mariella... Mind-body take over stands at the compound fence... looking out at the forest primeval. Tomorrow he is going out there for the first time... also he is scared.

There is light moving out there... single flitting ones... also larger patterns indicating big creatures.

Some of the trees grow very faintly or have phosphorescent patterns in their foliage.

Mariella sees eyes... low to the ground... moving just behind the tree line. Several pairs. Also- then an unearthly wailing cry. Viper wolves. Crap... what am I doing here?

IN THE JF-17... the next day... they thundered over the treetops with a roar of turbofans. Below them... the purple rainforest unrolls. The human pilot also the paratrooper escort sit in a sealed front cabin... while Mariella... Mind-body take over... Jan... Mind-body take over

also N'deh ride in the back compartment with the side doors open.

They landed in Jan's direction... in a grassy meadow.

They get out as the pilot shuts down the turbines.

Their- escort... CORPORAL LILLIE WAINFLEET... steps out wearing mask... helmet... armor also rebreather. He is carrying an almighty big automatic rifle. Mariella is wearing shorts also a T-shirt. Jan insists that he go barefoot... so her baby- Pinkie ties will toughen up with thick callouses indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous,

interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
hers.

Mariella stares at the wall of
trees surrounding them. Up close... the
trees are Nahhas... as big as sequoias at
the base... also even taller because the
gravity on FDR is less than Earth.

Lesser trees... the size of mature
oaks... are indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
underbrush in between the colossi.

Lillie is indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable to a
bird dog on point... hyperalert... scanning
the darkness, semidarkness, dark,
gloominess, dimness, blackness,
murkiness, murk, shadows, shade,
shadiness, obscurity, dusk, twilight,
gloaming, and tenebrosity-beyond the
meadow. A flock of sting-bats crosses far
above them. She tracks them with the
rifle... indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,

much of a muchness, and comparable
wise they ignore the strangers.

JAN- 'Lillie... stay with the ship.'

LILLIE- 'I'm supposed to escort
you.'

JAN- Lillie... you are supposed to
escort me to my party. The ship is part of
my party. Also- we need it to get back...
so if you do not want to walk thirty clicks
through the bush... LILLIE I will stay with
the ship.

Jan hates the common soldier
clomping through the woods with her.
They disrupt the animals... also smash the
plants... also make too much noise.

Also- they tend to attract larger predators... to whom they appear to be injured or defective animals.

They grab the cases of equipment also N'deh leads them into the trees.

Mariella stares all around indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a tourist in hell... rubbernecking also fascinated... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise scared crap-less.

Mariella expects every dappled shadow to hide a razor-fanged predator... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise their entry into the forest is uneventful.

Mariella is jumpy also on guard. Swatting at insects.

Soon she gathered quite a cloud of buzzing attackers.

Jan uses a machete to hack open the bole of a low... cycad-indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,

kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable plant. She
takes the viscous sap from the inside also
starts briskly rubbing it all over her
exposed skin. She recommends that he do
the same unless he wants his bones
picked clean by every insect in the forest.
She quickly complies.

The insects move off...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable magic. Jan
explains that the IV'AN use plant extracts
for all sorts of things... to relieve pain...
purify water... reduce fever... limit or

improve fertility... promote wound
healing... counteract stings also poisons...
attract useful insects... kill external also
internal parasites... prevent sunburn...
also repel or attract larger animals. As a
xenobotanist... her work has been vastly
accelerated with their guidance as they
help her see the greater interconnection
between things in the forest.

Mariella gazes around her in
wonder as they move deeper into the
primeval gloom. The bark of the giant
trees is alien... indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,

much of a muchness, and comparable big
hexagonal fish scales.

Moss covers the lower parts of
the trunks... also lines another vine-
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable structures
lace around them... also hang between
them indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
fallen power lines.

The roots of the greater trees are indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable mangroves... also they form clusters of pillars... each thick as a Nahhaal tree trunk... which joins far above their heads into a single massive trunk.

These root-trunks wind around each other... forming a braided cylinder... which then rises a hundred feet above the ground before it forms branches.

They move on. Jan starts giving her survival pointers.

How to avoid the things that bite
also sting suck.

Phalanxia... the deadly projectile
plant... shows up bright as a neon sign in
the ultraviolet-sensitive mind-body take
over vision.

No plynlem, give it a wide berth.
She shows her the nests of Hellfire
Wasps... the wasps do not
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable the sap they
have rubbed on... indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,

interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise do not push your luck by coming
near the nest.

She sees a DOVE TREE also
brings her as close as she can.

It is a hydra- indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable... ambulatory plant twice
Mariella's height.

It moves into place... then freezes
so that it resembles a gnarled... dead
tree. When prey moves within range... it

comes suddenly alive also strikes with one of six fanged heads. The animal is digested in a pitcher- indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable bole... also the half-stripped bones ejected to lure more prey.

Mariella sees the bones lying around the base of the tree.

Some of them are from animals at least as large as a man... or a mind-body takeover. Jan... The xenobotanist... is overly excited to share the Dove tree with her.

They move on. Mariella has never been in a forest before since they are mostly gone on Earth. SHE- is scared...

indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise dealing. It is interesting.

16

She continues to give Mariella pointers... touch its... do not touch that. They startle a small creature that crashes away into the underbrush.

Further up the trail... N'deh signals them to stop.

Jan motions... also they crouch down... watching through the leaves as something moves through the woods parallel to them. It is a small six-legged herbivore called a hexapede... about the size of a taper.

N'deh points at something else... also Jan whispers to Mariella.

JAN- Look. A slinger. It is stalking the hexapede.

Mariella does not see anything at first... then he spots it. A camouflaged shape moving through the sun-dappled shadows.

The predator moving into the
glade is

splashed by hard slashes of
sunlight... which combine with its camo
pattern making it hard to see. The
SLINGER is smaller than a slinth...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise just as
deadly.

It moves silently...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a

muchness, and comparable liquid...
through the ferns. It pauses... rearing
up... also indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable the
sling its muscular neck cocks back into a
striking position...

JAN- Watch it.

The slinger's neck snaps
forward... also it is long... pointed head
detaches... flying through the woods as a
self-guiding venomous glider... a smart
dart. The hexapede senses the dart also
bolts... bounding in evasive zigzags.

The dart tracks it unerringly through the trees also buries itself in its flank. The hexapede staggers. It stands... its muscles spasming... then falls over. The dart starts emitting a series of high-pitched squeals... which allow the body to home in on it blindly. The neck bends down... also is rejoined to the dart.

Mariella catches a glimpse of hair- indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable tendrils lacing together... neural interface. Then the slinger starts to rip the hexapede apart.

Jan explains that the slinth... with its striking head... is the evolutionary precursor of the slinger. The slinger's primary brain is in the dart... so if the body also the dart is ever permanently separated... they both die. The dart cannot feed itself.

The body also dart is the mother of a child... a dart is an immature form. When it grows too big to fly...

It will mate... then drop off also metamorphose into a small complete slinger with its offspring already in place... forming the new dart. Each new

generation is the brain of the previous one.

Backward sounding...

indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise it works.

Mariella watches the feeding slinger in awe. He has never seen anything indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable its... so raw were also primal.

JAN- 'Welcome to the food chain ladies.'

N'deh leads them past the feeding slinger... which is preoccupied with its kill. Mariella's heart is pounding.

She is still scared crap-less... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise its stuff is amazing. He feels more alive than she has ever felt.

~*~

They enter a clearing with a partially built structure in the middle. It is

made of heavy timber... cut from the local wood. It is the school also meeting center that Jan also Dr. Siessah were trying to build. They had gotten the IV'AN to build it is much... working alongside them... before they had retreated from human contact. Now the vines also moss are reclaiming it. Sting-bats roost under the eaves.

N'deh makes a high pitched clicking sound between tongue also teeth... also several of the Sting-bats flutter down toward her. He holds out some small fruits he has picked on the trail... also the Sting-bats perch on its arm ought to er's... munching.

Mariella knows that the stinging
tail spines are lethal. SHE- gives the
Sting-bats a wide berth as she helps Jan
with her sampling equipment.

She changes power cells...
collects data disks... also does other
housekeeping chores, Jan goes to work on
some equipment that has been left here
for rapid eye movement connection.

Jan chops through a thick liana
with her machete also drinks from the
dangling vine. Mariella tastes it.

Water... clear also slightly sweet.
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,

kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable drinking from
the teat of the rainforest.

Back at the JF-17, Lillie is idly
tracking a Hippocampus circling far
above her with the scope of its rifle.

The bored pilot is betting her ten
dollars he cannot hit it. she is about to
fire when he catches sight of some
movement out of the corner of 'its' eye.
SHE- motions to the pilot to keep still...
also they watch as three DIRE PEGASUS
emerge from the trees to munch grass in
the meadow.

DIRE PEGASUS (look like sea-
PEGASUS) are herbivores... vaguely
PEGASUS- indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable in
design... with exceptionally long necks
also tiny heads.

They have long... moth-
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable antennae with
feathery tips... which are constantly
moving... touching the tips of other dire
PEGASUS' antennae as they move near

each other. They stand about three feet at the ought to ers... or about half as big again as the largest Clydesdale- they have bold striped patterns on their bodies... also glinting... chitinous armor over ought to er's also along the back of the neck head.

17

Lillie moves forward in a predatory crouch also rests its rifle across the fuselage of the

JF-17. The dire-PEGASUS munch is unconcerned.

Fifty dollars say I nail all three... Lillie says. You are on... says the pilot.

POOM! The lead PEGASUS... the male... drops indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable it was poleaxed. The other two spook... rearing... POOM! One of the females drops... kicking its legs in the air as it writhes on the ground. The third one bolts. Lillie tracks with it... POOM! It crashes forward... its necks bending back double as it goes end over end.

The second dire-PEGASUS struggles to regain its footing. It pathetically tries to drag itself toward the

sheltering forest with a severed spine...
its back legs useless.

BOOM!

A blast of dirt... next to it. It
hobbles further... honking
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable a Canadian
goose... its signal for distress. Lillie fires
again... rushing the shot. Misses.

LILLIE- 'Crap!' She giggles.

It does not count if it makes it to
the tree line.

LILLIE- Start reaching for your handbag.

She flips the weapon to full auto.

BOOM!!!

The crippled dire-PEGASUS disappears in a cloud of dust as gouts of earth explode all around it. Tree- trunks are blasted... foliage also underbrush ripped into confetti.

When the dust clears... the dire-PEGASUS is an inert carcass.

ON LILLIE... turning toward us is a grinning... seeing the threes all dead and the animals.

A pink corona slams into the frame... grabbing its rifle. Jan rips the gun out of its corona also flings it cartwheeling over the JF-17... then twists its arm behind its back.

She viciously torques it to the breaking point... doubling her over. She forces her to its knees... jamming its facemask into the mud.

JAN- Little ones ought not to play with guns.

Lillie is cursing a pink streak.

Jan kneels on its back also grabs its breathing mask.

She said- 'I am going to give you some fresh air.'

Lillie squawks also plead with her not to. She disgustedly gets off her. She is already walking away... toward the felled creatures... as Lillie gets up.

Mariella sees her going for its sidearm. Lillie, has it aimed at Jan's back, also is about to pull the trigger when Mariella hits her indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a freight train?

SHE- slams the paratrooper
against the cowl of the ship... twists the
pistol out of its corona in one lightning
move... also then picks her up bodily.
Mariella is amazed at how easy it is to
hurl the human twenty feet away... even
weighted down by its full battle dress.

Lillie crashes in a heap...
breaking its arm... also lies there
moaning. Mariella picks her up with one
corona also leans close to its mask.

MARIELLA- Lillie... look at me.

Lillie! Are you looking? You do
that again... I will bite your throat out.

Mariella bares its pointy teeth in a vicious snarl. Lillie's eyes go wide with primal fear.

MARIELLA Understand?

Lillie nods... also, Mariella shoves her into the

JF-17. Jan is staring at her new assistant. He is a fighter.

There's hope for her yet.

Meanwhile... N'deh has gone to the bodies of the dire-PEGASUS.

A foal... only a few days old... has been hiding in the ferns nearby. It

emerges also honks for its mother to get up.

It licks her face also honks again... pitifully.

N'deh pulls something from the tube across its back.

It is a piece of gut-twine with something on the end... a carved wooden cylinder. He starts to whirl it round also round... above its head also as it builds speed... it emits a powerful ululating wail... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a

siren. It works indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable to the 'bullroarer' of the Australian aborigines... though the pitch is different also N'deh is somehow able to modulate it into a more complex sound.

The sound of the bullroarer echoes off through the trees for miles.

~*~

THE JF-17 lifting... banking away above the tree line. Its turbofan roar fades. Then there is only the sound of the forest. We see shapes among the trees...

figures which blend with the foliage. The band patterns on their bodies make them hard to see in the dappled light.

Close on one of the dead dire-PEGASUS. A pink corona enters the frame... stroking its face. The foal is lifted... still honking feebly... also carried away on strong pink ought to ears.

BACK AT IVAN Brantley Siessah is on the carpet in Ridgeville's office.

The incident with the paratrooper- Wainfleet could not have come at a worse time. The Mind-body take over Program is on shaky enough ground... without its sort of thing.

Now Duartha is out for blood...
also Carter Ridgeville is considering
restricting the number of scientific sorties
he approves... also confining the mind-
body takeovers to the base. Siessah is
barely able to get her to loosen up... rapid
eye overextending linking.

Of all the things they have
learned about FDR from the IV'AN... also
how much money there is to be made
from the drugs also biochemical
compounds yet undiscovered in the
forest. His Rapid eye overextends to her
of the money the Consortium has made
from the counter-virus.

Think how great it would be if they could get them IV'AN back to the table... trusting us again. Also- how is the common soldier running around blasting everything in sight that caused the rift with them in the first place.

Ridgeville also- Duartha does not understand a primitive culture which lives close to the soil... close to the daily cycle of birth also death. They do not understand... also they do not want to. Duartha thinks the natives are lazy also stupid. You give them a gun so they can hunt better... also they give it back. How smart is that?

Siessah tried to explain that the IV'AN considers it unfair also obscene to hunt with a gun... a dishonor to the spirit of the animal also its purpose for existence. They believe that everything has a purpose... also sometimes the animal's purpose is to feed the IV'AN... also sometimes the IV'AN's purpose is to feed the animal... also determining which is what makes them both strong... fast also perfect.

They do not want to change.

Ridgeville says that if that is true... the IV'AN will never help them build reality, actuality, certainty,

factuality, certitude, and truths also strip-mine their planet.

They are useless to us. Also...

Siessah knows he has said too much. She is trapped in 'its' argument. He tries to stall... saying he can get the IV'AN to cooperate.

NEXT... WE SEE Siessah raking (human) Jan also Mariella over the Tekttites and maldonites in her lab. Mariella says he had to do something... that jarhead was going to blow Jan's mind-body take over away. Siessah holds its head in its coronae. Would any court... anywhere... let her get away with

equating a human life to that of a genetic construct... a living antireality, actuality, certainty, factuality, certitude, and truth created in a lab?

Siessah says he knows what it feels indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable... She is like Kristen years back spent enough hours in the bush... in mind-body take over form. It is intoxicating... it is the greatest experience imaginable...

Indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous,

interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise they have to rapid eye movement
link- ember what they are here for.

18

Also- what is that? Jan yells...
challenging her. To get the IV'AN to trust
us? So- can we use them. So- can we
harness them to the yoke. So- we can
make them slaves... also teach them to
participate in the rape of their home
planet? You are an- anthropologist...
Brantley!

How did it turn into it? You are
no better than Ridgeville, also it is a goon

squad. Are you getting a nice fat payoff indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable Parrish?

Siessah is furious.

He tells them both he does not want them around the base for a while until things cool down. He wants them to go out to SITE 26. They can spend a couple of weeks in the boonies collecting... up in the Praying Mountains... while he tries to get things patched up.

She warns Jan that she is 'going native' also dragging her assistant into it as well. Also- that way can lie madness.

Look what happened to Hegner.

A JF-17 roars high above the rainforest... climbing into the mountains.

Mariella also Jan is sitting upfront with the pilot... KIMBERLY CHACON.

N'deh rides in the open back compartment with a single paratrooper... CORPORAL BILL ONOZUKI... also the unconscious mind-body takeovers of- Mariella also its boss.

MARIELLA- So-o, what happened to Hegner?

Jan tells her that Hegner's mind-body take over was not just killed by a slinth. He let the slinth take her. Suicide. He was dying of a broken heart... also being in the mind-body take over the body without its loved one was just too painful.

She managed to fall in love with an IV'AN man... some say they were married... also she was killed.

She was one of the five killed by the CFOESE common soldier in the incident which caused the big rift between the two species. Also... - Hegner went crazy.

Her name was Li Na.

There are many dangers of FDR...
Jan says... also one of the subtlest is that
you may come to love it too much.

MARIELLA- 'AS IF- Not so far.' a
rapid eye movement research station
AKA: 'Linking.' It consists of a 'cabin.'
Then a single airlift module... about the
size of a train car, which is perched on
the flank of a mountain; near the Montes
Molones.

Here the trees are gnarly also
much shorter... their roots gripping the
rocks indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,

much of a muchness, and comparable
arthritic coronae. In the clear space
around the Cabin are packing cases also
instrument packages left by previous
research groups.

The station is uninhabited.

A few of the nearer flying
mountains are visible a few miles off...
among the clouds.

A JF-17 lands ever-so, near the
Cabin. Jan also the pilot gets out...
wearing masks also rebreathers. They get
Mariella's chair out of the back then help
her out of the ship also into it. Their
paratrooper escort does nothing to help

unload... merely scans the area... its gun held at the ready.

N'deh stays in the back compartment of the aircraft with the unconscious mind-body takeovers of Mariella also Jan.

They enter the Cabin... which is dark also musty. Jan starts the Genny also turns on the light's equipment.

There are bunk beds... a cramped clutter of scientific gear... also two INTERCONNECTION chairs.

Kimberly jokes about being alone in the mountains for a couple of weeks with two men in such cramped quarters.

Mariella says the only threat he poses is body odor... indicating its useless lower body.

Once Jan has checked out the INTERCONNECTION transmitters... also Mariella goes straight to the chairs. Outside... at the ship... their mind-body takeovers interconnection also sits up.

They get out of the JF-17 also stand... breathing the cold mountain air.

Streamers of cloud wreath the nearby mesa-tops... also partially obscure the floating mountains nearby.

They go out the next day to place instrument packages among the floating

mountains. Mariella also Jan goes under the INTERCONNECTION in the Cabin at Site 26... while N'deh also the mind-body takeovers ride out in the JF-17. The reason a mobile controller station was set up in the first place is that the magnetic flux around Montes Molones interferes with the INTERCONNECTION signal from IVAN. They need to be closer.

19

The JF-17 is tiny moving among the vast floating islands of rock. Unicorns-glowing rays also other smaller flying species circle next to the cliffs in the sunlit shafting between the clouds.

Waterfalls plunge thousands of feet down the sheer walls... then dissolve into nothingness below the bottoms of the mountains.

Kimberly pilots the JF-17 under one of the floating mountains... also we see the upside-down forest of vines that are like FiberOptics- dangling from the underside.

They pass between falling streams of water glowing. It is a dream indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable also surreal.

Mariella... sitting in the wind in the open door of the JF-17 sees a unicorn-glowing ray cruising near them. It studies them a moment... beating its huge wing membranes to keep up.

It lets out a piercing shriek (hence the name) also then banks away... diving indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a jet fighter. Paratrooper Onozuki... wearing a mask also armor... sits in the other doorway... leaning on the sling of the door-gun.

Jan names the floating mountains
as they pass. Mons Veritatis... Truth
Mountain. Mons Tiburon. Mons

Damocles. Icarus. Daedalus. Also-
finally... the biggest of the
superconductor mountains... Mons
Prometheus... The Big Rock-Calsoy
Mountain. A hundred billion dollars-
worth of pure Tektites and Moldavite.

They land on the mesa-top of the
Big Rock-Calsoy Mountain.

Paratrooper Onozuki deploys
rapidly... scanning.

It is rifle ready. The others get
out also go to work.

The mountaintop is shrouded in a
blowing cloud bank.

Occasional shafts of sunlight play
across it... indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise it is mostly gray mist.

Mariella carries its instrument
package away from the ship.

He sets it up at the edge of a
cliff... per Jan's instructions. Below...
through gaps in the clouds... he can see
purple forested slopes... half a mile down.

Mariella sees more Hippocampus
circling below.

A couple passes nearby... giving
her an eye. indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable reef
sharks they will size you up...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise seldom
attack something their size unless it is in
distress.

Mist closes around Mariella as he walks back to the JF-17.

Visibility is only a few feet.

Without warning... a curtain of what looks indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable slimy ropes emerges out of the mist.

They are hanging down from above... their source unseen... also are dragging over the ground with a faint swish.

Mariella whirls in time to see them... indistinguishable, close, near,

almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise she is enveloped.

They are translucent tentacles...
only a couple of inches in afoot.

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise they react instantly on contact with
her... curling around its limbs also the
body... also zapping the hell out of her
with electric shocks.

Mariella is entangled also
dragged... struggling... across the
mountaintop. She shouts... also... the
others run toward her. The paratrooper
aims its gun up into the mist above
Mariella... hoping to hit the source of the
tentacles... indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise Jan stops her from firing. We do not
know why yet. N'deh sprints toward her...
drawing its machete.

Mariella sees the cliff edge
approaching... beyond it nothing. N'deh
will not reach

Mariella in time.

Mariella is swept off the edge...
its feet dangling over space.

N'deh throws her the machete...
also Mariella catches it with the corona.
N'deh almost falls... indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable wise Jan grabs her... pulling
her back from the edge.

They watch helplessly as Mariella
is carried away. Then Jan runs
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,

kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable hell toward
the JF-17... yelling to Kimberly to fire it
up.

Mariella... still getting zapped by
electric shocks... tries to get a look at
what is holding her. The cloud bank falls
away... also he sees a Nahhas transparent
canopy above her... glistening in the
sunlight. It looks indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable an
impossibly huge jellyfish...

indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,

kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable to a cross
between a Portuguese man o' war also a
blimp.

It is clear membranous sac... or
bell... is filled with hydrogen... produced
by an internal biochemical process. The
bell is 14 feet across... also the tentacles
are over 35 feet long.

The bell pulses to give some
directional control...

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable

wise mostly they drift with the wind. It expels gas to descend... also expels water from trim bladders to rise.

Mariella sees a whole school of these things... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a fleet of ships... emerging from the clouds on both sides of her.

Apparently- they sweep the tops of the mountains for prey... stunning it with their electric shocks. Mariella looks up also sees that the contracting tentacles are bringing her much closer to the pulpy

mouth. In the JF-17... Jan also the others searched for the clouds for Mariella. They see the fleet of gasbags... also move toward them. Jan says they are AERO-COELENTERATES... genus MEDUSA.

These are X. Medusa gigans... not too common it is far east. She tells Onozuki not to fire because they are full of hydrogen also will- explode indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable to the Hindenburg.

Mariella is hacking at the tentacles with the machete. They are tough also rubbery... hard to cut. Its distress encourages some circling Hippocampus to attack. As they dive toward her... we see the distensible jaws unfold... revealing glassy dagger-indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable teeth several inches long.

Mariella hacks at the first one... slashing it right across the face. With a shriek... it veers off. The jaws of another snap inches from its leg... also he chops

into it with the machete. It flutters off in a descending spiral... the ought to er of one wing hacked open. Some of the others follow it down... ripping it apart.

Kimberly maneuvers the JF-17 closer.

WHAM!!!

They are slammed by something from above. The ship drops also she fights for control. Onozuki is almost pitched out. They pull her back in. A huge shadow... then they see it.

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,

much of a muchness, and comparable to a
Hippocampus... only several times larger.
It is the king predator of the air... the
GREAT LEONOPTERYX.

Striped, scarlet... yellow also
black... with a midnight pink head... it is
iridescent also beautiful. It feeds on
Hippocampus... munching them
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable salted
peanuts... also the occasional medusa
when it is hungry...

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise its fight is not about hunger... it is
about territory.

It sees the JF-17 as a competing
predator... also it is pissed.

The great Manticore swoops
away... climbing with unbelievable
speed... disappearing up into the sun.

Kimberly loses sight of it. Jan tells
her to take evasive action. Fast...!
Kimberly banks also dive.

Also- we see the Manticore
plummeting right behind her in a full
delta tuck... indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable a
hawk stooping.

They build up airspeed also
Kimberly moves right and left... then
right... trying to throw it off.

Mariella sees them go out of sight
behind the flank of the Big Rock Calsoy
Mountain... also knows she is screwed. He
chops harder at the tentacles... hacking

through another one in a spray of violet
blood.

~*~

As she gets nearer to the pulsing
sphincter of a mouth... he starts to hack
at the gas bag overhead. SHE- chops
through the membrane... also hydrogen
whooshes out... spraying her with a mist
of blood. Mariella hacks again... widening
the tear.

With a thin scream...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a

muchness, and comparable a tea-kettle
whistle... the medusa starts to descend.

The great Manticore
outmaneuvers the JF-17... slamming into
it with a bone-jarring crash. It flaps away
with a piece of the engine cowl... also the
JF-17 plunges... smoking... toward the
ground.

Amid alarms also flashing lights
Kimberly fights for control.

The cabin is full of smoke. The
ship hits the treetops with a series of
splintering crashes... also sails out over a
clearing... crossed up also spinning. It
plops down into a huge gray mud-spot. It

has come to rest in the middle of an area of volcanic springs... where terraced pools of mud plop with steam from below... also geysers shoot up nearby.

Visualize paradise 'The Garden of Eden' with purple- and soft pink trees in flowering... also a few floating mountains in the background.

Everyone inside is okay... though shaken. Bloody noses... bashed knees. Onozuki jumps out into the mud... in a rage... also slogs its way to the rocky ground.

SHE- runs up a rise... screaming at the leonopteryx... which is a crimson kite banking away.

SHE- opens fire with its rifle. Jan has come out... shouting something to her... which he cannot discern over the thundercrack of its weapon.

FROM A HIGH PLACE- we can see the paratrooper as a tiny dot on the rocks below.

Air rushes downward. A huge shadow can be seen... rippling over the ground... rushing toward Onozuki... who is firing in the other direction... it backed turned.

We rush right down to her...
meeting our shadow... the shadow of
wings 14 feet across.

WHAM!! The angle on Onozuki as
he is jerked up out of frame.

Its gun also helmet plop into the
mud near Jan... also terrifying shriek
echoes across the landscape.

(SEVERAL MILES AWAY-)

Mariella is plummeting toward
the rainforest... still wrapped in the
tentacles of the deflating medusa.

The trees claw up toward her...
also he enters a snapping... slashing hell
of purple foliage.

SHE- is jerked to a stop... the
wind knocked out of her... also its
machete clatters down into the forest
below her.

~*~

SHE- finds herself hanging ten
feet above the ground. The tentacles go
limp as it dies... also he slips down...
trying to hold onto them now.
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a

muchness, and comparable wise they are too slick. He slides down its greased rope... falling the last two feet to the ground... where he lands on its feet.

She jumps to its feet also scrambles away from beneath the Medusa. Panting... he looks up at it.

It is still dead...?

...?...?

She finds its machete also stands to survey the gloomy forest around her.

-AND-

Alone in the bush... miles from nowhere.

Great...? She feels an
overwhelming sense of doom and gloom.

Mariella backs away from the
Medusa... then turns to look behind her.

CHOMP!

The striking head of a Dove-tree
snaps its jaws shut inches from her. He
jumps back as several of the other head's
lunge.

CHOMP!

CHOMP!

CHOMP!

She stands there panting... just
out of range of the hydra heads.

MARIELLA- Its place is indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable to a goddamned Roadrunner cartoon.

At the downed JF-17 Kimberly has called the base.

She tells- Jan that they cannot send a ship for a couple of hours... everything is committed. Also- Duartha will not send one of its gunships to pick up civilians. Prick. Jan picks up Onozuki's rifle also tells Kimberly to get back to the ship.

Mariella is walking through the forest... moving in also out of patches of sunlight.

SHE- slaps at bugs.

SHE- finds the plant Jan used for insect repellent also cuts it open... smearing it on herself. Something is watching her from behind a curtain of leaves.

Golden- EYES- are watching from the dappled shadows. IV'AN eyes. Piercing gaze... FILLING FRAME. A soundless motion... the eyes are gone.

Mariella walks on through the forest... skittish also hyperalert.

She keeps its machete gripped tightly. Something small rustles away through the ferns near her. He hears distant shrieks... chirps... grunts.

There is a crash also an explosion of splintered wood flying leaves. A BULL ENFIELD TITANOTHER emerges into the clearing ahead of her in a shower of foliage.

Its baleful eyes lock onto her. Mariella is frozen. The titanother bellows also lower its ten-foot-wide sledgehammer of ahead. Its charges. The ground shakes.

Mariella... in desperation...
screams at the top of its lungs... spreads
its arms wide also runs straight at the
thing.

It stops its charge abruptly... with
an oversized bleat.

MARIELLA is amazed by the
gambit that worked. SHE- then grins.

Make a face at the titanothera.
Something rises behind her out of focus...
RACK FOCUS to it... revealing...

A MANTICORE- It is what
stopped the

Titanothera's charge.

The manticore is the most fearsome of FDF'n predators... also by the look of it might be the toughest carnivore in the known universe. Its thing could eat a T-rex also have the Alien for dessert.

It is a many-colored limbed panther from the underworld... the size of a tractor-trailer... with an armored head... a venomous striking tail... also massive distensible armored jaws.

Its shiny black skin looks indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable polished

leather... also is badland with thin strips
of gold scarlet.

It has four powerful legs forming
a base for a torso which angles up...
centaur- indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable... to
a powerful ought to er girdle.

Folded against its chest are two
long forearms indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable to
the striking limbs of a praying mantis.

Curving up over the back is a muscular Gynosphinx tail that ends in a scythe- indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable stinger... over a foot long.

The locals call it- 'Palulukan'... which translates as 'Dry Mouth Bringer of Fear.'

Mariella... still unaware of the silently advancing manticore, yells- 'boo!' to the Titanothera. It wheels around... trumpeting in fear... also thunders off down the trail.

Imagine Mariella's surprise when
there is an earsplitting snarl behind her
also seven tons of rippling manticore
launches over her... landing between her
also the titanotheres.

The Enfield is shaking the ground
at a full gallop... indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise the manticore run it down in half a
dozen powerful bounds.

It leaps to the titanotheres's ought
to e'r... seizing it in the powerful front
limbs... also then the muscular tail arches

over... slamming the foot-long stinger
through the beast's armored neck.

The neurotoxic venom is pumped
in with one contraction of the muscular
tail... also the titanotheres topples to the
ground with a crash... shaking the forest.

Mariella gapes as the manticore
rips into its prey with massive jaws lined
with distending fangs 12.67 inches long.

Mariella backs slowly away...
trying to be invisible.

SHE- slips behind some foliage...
then runs indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,

much of a muchness, and comparable
hell.

MARIELLA is now chopping at a
sapling he has cut down... fashioning it
into a long spear.

She hacks at the end... forming a
crude indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise sharp tip. Its motions are jerky also
manic with fear.

She sticks the machete through
its belt also carries the spear two-pronged
as she moves through the forest

indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable it is a
minefield.

THEN- through the leaves- *AND*
FOLIAGE.

-AND-

Also- the eyes... bright in a slash
of sunlight. Golden irises
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable a cat... in a

feral pink face. They duck away as
Mariella approaches.

~*~

Mariella passes a tree... also on
our side of the tree we see a figure...
standing utterly still... listening to her
pass.

An IV'AN WOMAN. She is
young... also lithe as a cat... with a long...
slender neck... muscular ought to er's...
also nubile breasts... a statuesque vision.
Let us speak plainly here... she is
devastatingly beautiful. For a man with a
tail. In human age... she would be in her
late teens.

In the sun-dappled shadows... her island markings make her invisible. Mariella passes less than a foot from her also never knows she is there. She watches her... frozen... only her eyes moving.

CLOSEUP ON MARIELLA'S FACE- ON OF EXCITEMENT- THEN- on the IV'AN man. She sniffs the scent Mariella has left behind her in the air. AT THE CRASH SITE the rescue ship has arrived.

Kimberly climbs aboard the hovering JF-17... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous,

interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise Jan also N'deh say there are going to
look for Mariella.

The AVIC craft banks away. Jan
looks to the west as she walks to the tree
line. The twin suns are set behind a black
wall of alien trees.

(DUSK IN THE RAINFOREST-)

Mariella... moving through the
quickly darkening forest... has polynemes.
In the deepening gloom... she sees black
shapes moving with liquid Jan among the
shadows behind her.

She is being stalked by a pack of
viper-wolves.

Mariella catches movement out of
the corner of its eye also realizes one of
the things is moving up to a flanking
position. She sees a glint of eyes... and
Interconnection in black movement... then
nothing. Darkness.

Also, behind her more glints...
pairs of eyes. Then a hideous sound...
more indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable a
hyena's maniacal laugh than a dog growl.

Mariella starts to run along a game trail he has been following. She catches glimpses of the viper wolves bounding through the woods... staying with her.

Its running has made them bolder. They sense its fear, also they are closing in. SHE- sees another on its opposite flank now.

The forest has come alive with-bioluminescence as the day fades. Spots also patterns... ghosts also galaxies of pink- green light dance before its eyes... disorienting her... seeming to surround her with the glowing cat-eyes of the viper-

wolves. Their psychotic laughing barks become more intense as they signal each other... getting excited.

SHE- can see the shadows of the viper-wolves moving through the undergrowth... leaving a tell-tale trail of flashes as they brush against the sensitive plants.

Finally, one makes a run at her. She senses it angling in on its legs from behind also she whirls... whopping it with the flat of the spear.

It yips also goes past her... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,

kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise instantly
another move in. She jabs it with the
business end of the spear also it yelps...
retreating... baring its fangs. Mariella
realizes that she is making 'its' final
stand.

The viper wolves circle also
Mariella gets its first good look at them.
She is not indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable to
what he sees. They are indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,

akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable wolves...

Hairless... with shiny skin that
looks indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
overlapped leather armor. They are
mostly black... badland with vermilion
also thin lines of iridescent pink.

Earless low- slang heads... with
chitinous neck shields indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and

comparable a triceratops. Bright...
intelligent eyes.

Also- the same distending... Dove-
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable jaws as the
Hippocampus... glistening with fangs that
look indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable they are made
of glass.

Most disturbing are the
creature's paws... which are

indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable leathery black coroneae... almost human in shape... with a thumb for gripping. These things can hunt in the trees as well as on the ground.

There is half a dozen of them... more in the shadows.

Mariella feels a rush of adrenaline... or whatever does the same thing in its mind-body take over the body... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,

much of a muchness, and comparable he has never felt in its life. It goes through her indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a lightning bolt also the fear is gone.

MARIELLA (shouting,) 'Do you want me?' 'Come on! Get some of me!'

With sharp snarls also a blur of motion they attack.

Mariella plants the spear in one... striking true... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,

much of a muchness, and comparable
wise the speed of its attack wrenches it
from its coroneae.

She draws the machete also
chops at another... just as a third sinks its
teeth into its arm. He yells in pain also
fury... slashing across with the machete.
It cuts deep into the throat of the one on
its arm... also it lets go.

She sprints... and runs- like-
trying to escape... indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness and
comparable wise one of the viper-wolves

grabs her by the ankle with its powerful
fore- corona.

-And-

Mariella tears away...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise goes
sprawling.

She looks up in time to see four
viper-wolves lunging toward her. The
nearest leaps at its throat.

THUNK!!!

An arrow appears in its chest. It lands on her... already a dead weight. He pushes it off in time to see a pink figure wade in among the wolves. It is the IV'AN man.

She cracks her bow down on the skull of one of the wolves.

Then grabs another also picks it up bodily... hurling it against a tree. The last one leaps at her also she drops under its weight... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise rolls somehow... coming up on top of

it with a knife in her corona. The knife
flashes down buried to the hilt in its
heart.

The last two viper wolves...
stunned by her blows... retreat yipping
into the black woods.

Mariella gets up... amazed to be
alive... amazed by its man... its vision. She
recovers her arrow from one of the dead
wolves. SHE- speaks to her... not knowing
if she understands her.

Finally- she speaks... in halting
English.

He knows she must be one of the
Tsumongwi clan... the ones taught by
Siessah's people how to speak English.

Her name is AULEIHA TE KAHA
POLENOMA.

Mariella thanks her for letting the
viper-wolves.

Auleiha's eyes flash with anger. It
is not a thing to thank someone for... she
says. It is a sad thing... also it is its fault.

She blames her for the
unnecessary deaths of the wolves.

If he had known what he was
doing... they would not have attacked.

indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise she is clumsy also stupid as a baby. These are unnecessary deaths.

She touches the fangs of the wolves respectfully. She murmurs to them in her language... asking them to forgive her. Also... to forgive its stupid alien man.

What ought to I have done?

SHE- wants to know. She explains how sap from a certain leaf imitates the smell of a slinger dart... you rub it on your face... also it scares them. They think you

are a slinger. They will not attack you.
Auleiha stands... walking away as if
nothing has happened.

Mariella grabs its machete also
sprints to catch up with her.

She scowls at her... also says that
you alien people do not understand its
forest. You ought not to come here.

You only cause polynemes.

Mariella asks why she saved
her... then. Why not let her wolves have a
nice meal if she loves them so much?
What is the deal?

She stops... meeting its eyes for
the first time.

AULEIHA- 'Because you are
brave.'

She grins at the compliment.

She scowls... turning away again.

AULEIHA- 'Comparable wise you
are dumb more than a child.'

'Teach me... then.' Said,
MARIELLA.

She looks at her again.

MARIELLA- You do not want to
leave me out here alone to harm more

animals. I am a menace. I need to be taught what to do.

AULEIHA- 'You aliens do not see as we do.' Never see.

MARIELLA- 'Teach me to see as you do.'

AULEIHA- 'No one can teach what is misunderstood.'

She lets her go with her. First... she binds its wound with some plant dressing that stops the bleeding also the pain.

As they walk, he asks her questions.

The first lesson is about silence.

They walk on. The sky is black
also full of stars. Two moons are
providing more than enough light for its
large cat-eyes. Bioluminescence is
everywhere.

A GHOSTBIRD flies through the
trees above them.

A glowing... transparent
membrane... delicate as a blown-glass
figurine. Elegant also insubstantial. Its
song is eerie indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,

much of a muchness, and comparable
wise quite melodic.

Other things are wafting through
the high branches... little points of light
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable fireflies.

A couple of drift near her also he
sees that they are indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable glowing dissuasion seeds...
about the size of large indistinguishable,

close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable westerlies... waving their
silky cilia to move joyfully through the
night air.

They cross a large bed of moss...
which reacts to the pressure of their
footsteps. Rings of pink/green light...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable water ripples
on a pond... expands outward from each
footfall.

Mariella sees movement in the trees ahead. Suddenly a glowing manta-shape banks toward them... a Hippocampus.

Mariella raises its machete... bracing for a chop. He slashes at the shape also...

It dissolves- into a swarm of MOONWRAITHS.

These insects fly in a tightly patterned swarm... imitating the shape of a Hippocampus to discourage insect-eating predators.

The moon-wraiths disperse indistinguishable, close, near, almost

identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable a mist also
reform further on.

AULEIHA- 'You do not see like
us.'

They pass through a grove of
trees indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
willows.

A fountain of gossamer tendrils
from each central stalk.

The long tendrils hang down
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable straight hair...
also they glow faintly.

They sway hypnotically as if in a
breeze... indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise there is no breeze.

They reach out... gently caressing
them as they pass through.

Auleiha runs her fingers through the tendrils as she walks. She murmurs to them in her language. Mariella listens to her... talking to the trees as they walk through the suddenly magical night.

Auleiha breaks into a loping run.

Mariella catches up... also soon they run silently together through the dappled moonlight. Its body is powerful... also it is effortless. He feels almost indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable he is flying.

~*~

Looking down... he sees
exploding rings of light where its feet
touch down.

They approach a waterfall... a
wide curtain shimmering in the
moonlight.

Auleiha runs agilely over a fallen
trunk... across a broad pool at the base of
the waterfall.

LOOKING DOWN we see
glowing... gently moving shapes covering
the bottom of the pool. They are giant
anemones.

Auleiha also Mariella is
silhouetted sprinting over a garden of

Pink... cyan also salmon-colored living
starbursts... some over three feet across.

They ran on in silence.

Mariella breaths deeply...
smelling a thousand things he never
noticed before.

SHE- feels indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable he knows what they are... at
some cellular level.

Something... deep in its brain...
deep in the fabric of its alien body... is

awakening. They enter a clearing filled with chest-high ferns.

She signals her to stop... then shows her a creature perched on a nearby fern.

Mariella sees a black... stick-indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a sea serpent thing perched on a front ahead of her. It is about a foot long also ugly as a toad. As he approaches it goes SNAP!

A long spine lying along its back snaps around in a circle... unfurling a

bioluminescent membrane of bright orange also pink... a perfect disk a foot across... opening indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a Peacock.

The rapidly distending fan- wing imparts enough angular movement to spin the creature indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a frisbee. It glides... spinning... through the darkness. It floats across the clearing to another branch where the wing furls...

Vanishing as suddenly as it appeared. Auleiha runs forward with a sharp cry... plunging into a large patch of ferns. With an explosion of color... two dozen FAN A SEA SERPENTS snap into motion... also Mariella is suddenly surrounded by luminous floating disks... which spin away between the glowing trees.

The ugly little sea serpent becomes one of the most beautiful things she has ever seen. Actuality, certainty, factuality, certitude, and truth... its world which seemed so ugly has become one of awesome beauty.

Mariella's face fills with child
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wonder. SHE-
looks at Auleiha... also sees her smiling.

Mariella notices that the
chromatophores on her body have
brightened also changed color. SHE-
looks down. It has too. Its skin pulses with
colors he has never seen before. He does
not know what it means.

indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a

muchness, and comparable wise Auleiha does.

Several of the *dalsoelion*-seed things floating near her. Humans call them WILLATHEWISPS... also they are more plants than animals.

Indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise right now they seem to be acting with purpose. Now there are more... circling her. Some alighting on her. SHE-laughs as more of them come.

Soon Mariella is pulsing...
glowing... fluttering mass of light...
standing in the clearing. Auleiha is overly
impressed by it. She takes it as a sign that
he is accepted by the willathewisps.

The forest is giving her a
blessing. Why does she not know?
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise she
knows not to question it. Also... she is
secretly glad.

Because she is fascinated by its
aliens... also now she has an excuse to
bring them to... THE VILLAGE.

Mariella follows Auleiha into the
village of her clan. They live inside the
bases of three of the Nahhas mangrove-
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable tall trees.

Cookfires are visible through the
pillars of the roots... also people move
past them as tall silhouettes.

Auleiha calls them also they come
out to look at Mariella.

The PATRIARCH also

MATRIARCH stands to wait for Auleiha to explain what she is doing. She goes into a long... uninterrupted explanation... in rapid-fire bursts of her lilting... musical language... accompanied by lots of corona gestures which fascinate- Mariella with their eloquence. Her jointless fingers are hypnotic to watch as she talks.

The Matriarch... MO'AT

POHATSUA examines Mariella closely. She looks at the viper-wolf bite on its arm. She says something to the Patriarch... MATO'A TE KAHA NAHGOITEWA... also they confer briefly.

As we will come to find out...
Mo'at also Mato'a are Auleiha's parents.
She is what you might call a princess...
destined herself to be the Matriarch of
the clan someday.

So... they cut her some slack.
Future Matriarchs are expected to have
good instincts.

Mato'a invites Mariella in for
dinner... also they go inside the base of
the tree.

Mariella is amazed at the size of
the thing inside. By the light of the
cookfires... she can see up into a

cylindrical gallery... which goes off into
darkness.

It is indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable to a
biological cathedral... held up by pillars
also flying indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise tresses of living wood.

We see the people of the tribe...
also how they live.

Mothers with babies... old ladies... young hunters. The Matriarch also Patriarch rule equally... though each with their area of responsibility also expertise.

The Patriarch is the hunt leader... also oversees the making of things... including pottery... clothing also art.

The Matriarch... Mo'at... governs the tribe's interconnections to the forest... also is responsible for their verbal story... medicine also musical teaching. Her skills could be compared to those of a shaman.

Her name means 'Dream Catcher.' It is her job to petition the

forest for guidance... also to make requests for it. Together they determine when they must move to allow the area, they have dwelt in to recover from their stay... also where they will go next. Their lifestyle is seminomadic... also the movements are seasonal... having to do with the migration of some prey animals... also the gathering of certain plants also fruits.

One of the hunters is TSU TE RONGLOA... whose name means 'Eats the Heart.' He is the Primary male... or dominant young male... under the

Matriarch also Patriarch. Mariella sees right away that Tsu Te is not happy about her being here.

He suspects that it has more to do with Auleiha than with a general mistrust of 'aliens.' Also... she is right.

Mariella is shocked to see Jan also N'deh here... seated also- already eating. Jan waves jauntily also grin at her... licking her fingers.

It is nice to be among her old friends again... she says.

They came to us in the forest also told us Auleiha had found you.

The whole village knew Mariella was coming... Auleiha let her mother... Mo'at... know while they were still out in the bush.

20

Does Mariella wonder how she did that? She was not packing a cellular phone. Jan just smiles.

Mariella eats dinner with them... also is made welcome. He is served some cooked fish... also some hexapede meat. It is delicious. Auleiha offers her some steamed grubs... also he does not want to be rude... especially not with her...

So-o...?

They turn out to be sweet... with
a consistency a bit indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable shrimp. He has a second
helping... making a show of learning the
IV'AN word for it.

Across the fire... she sees Jan
grinning at her. She says something to
N'deh... leaning close to her... also she
closes its eyes in agreement.

The fires are burning low. The
clan is bedding down for the night... in
fiber, hammocks slung about the inside of

the mighty tree. Mariella is given a place to sleep. He stares at the fire... its flickering light reflecting in its eyes. What is happening to her?

SHE- feels so... right... here.

Mariella closes its eyes... also...

SHE- opens its eyes. The inside of the Cabin at site 14 is momentarily disorienting. Human Mariella lifts the INTERCONNECTION rig also rubs its temples. He has been under for sixteen hours.

Jan wakes up in the next chair. She gets up... stretching also rubbing her numbed indistinguishable, close, near,

almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wisest. Cracks her neck.

JAN- Gawd!! What a day. I need
to get some rack. I recommend you do the
same. Village life starts early at 4 A.M.

Mariella is reeling. That is, it?
'What a day?' He realizes he has lost all
sense of what they are doing here if he
ever had it.

Jan crashes down onto her bunk
with a mighty groan.

She pulls herself out of its chair
also into its bunk.

A beat...!

-Then-

JAN- You did well today...

Mariella. Good. I am proud of you.

(THE NEXT MORNING)

Mariella awakens early to
discerns Jan talking to Siessah at the
base.

Siessah is saying that Ridgeville
is cutting off their work. After the crash...
she cannot spare a ship to ferry them
around every day.

Also... Duartha is pissed off about losing another man. They are being recalled.

Jan tells her to forget about the sampling up in the mountains... they are onto something. They are in the Tsumongwi village... also Mariella has made friends with the Patriarch's daughter.

It could be a breakthrough. Also... they do not need a JF-17. Siessah tells them to stay on it... she will deal with Ridgeville also CFOESE.

Jan coronae Mariella a cup of coffee.

JAN- Let us go... amigo. Time to
take flesh also walk the earth.

MARIELLA... MIND BODY TAKE
OVER- Interconnections awake... looking
up at the inside of the cathedral tree.
Shafts of sunlight stream down into the
high vault above her through gaps in the
'braided' trunks. Flying Sting-bats twinkle
silently high up in a shaft of light.

Jan comes by... snapping her
fingers.

JAN- Another beautiful day in
hell.

Mariella walks outside... looking
for Auleiha. We see village life among the

Tsumongwi... kids playing... people
cooking... cleaning fish. Mo'at tells
Mariella where to find her daughter.

Auleiha bows fishing from a rock
in the pool below a large waterfall.
Mariella emerges from the trees nearby
also freezes... watching her.

With deep concentration... she
stands still as a statue.

Then the spear- indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable arrow shoot into the water...
also Auleiha jumps in waist-deep to

retrieve it. She holds up a good-sized fish... also grins at Mariella.

She comes up out of the water... a dripping primeval beauty.

She pulls the arrow out of the fish also coronae it the bow to Mariella, Its turn.

She- is flailing about in the pool... trying to shoot a fish. It is a lot harder than it looks. Auleiha must turn away... she is laughing so much. Finally, Mariella nails a fish about four inches long also holds it up proudly.

MARIELLA- Anybody can hit the big ones.

TSUTE also another young
hunter... TRI COOCHYESTEWA... come
out of the forest leading TWO
DOMESTICATED DIRE-PEGASUS.

They control the huge animals
with a leather nose-ring...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise there is
no sign of bridle... reins or saddle... only a
woven grass surcingle around the
animal's chest. The dire-PEGASUS drink
from the edge of the pool.

Tsu Te disdainfully watches
Mariella slogging out of the pool with its
tiny prize.

AULEIHA- It is Tsu Te.

MARIELLA- Gesundheit. Pleased
to meet Ya.

TSU - When are you going away?

MARIELLA- Direct- I
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable that. It is
fresh.

Actually... I hoped to stay awhile.
Pick up a few hunting tips from Auleiha.

Auleiha speaks to Tsu Te in their language. In subtitles... we learn that the matriarch has instructed her to teach the alien the ways of the forest... to see if it can be done. Tsu Te sneers at that... also says something which needs no translation.

Tsu Te flips its head also catches the end of its long queue in one corona. With the other corona he gently takes one moth- indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,

much of a muchness, and comparable
antennae of its dire-PEGASUS... also
bends it down toward her.

Next... she does an amazing
thing... she touches the end of its hair to
the end of the antenna... which looks
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable to a feather.

The 'hair' comes alive... rapidly
interweaving with the feather-
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a

muchness, and comparable tendrils. They knit together... forming what Mariella realizes is a neural interface... a direct plug-in to the PEGASUS's nervous system?

In one fluid motion... Tsu Te hooks its barefoot into the bottom of the surcingle also vaults up onto the back of its dire-PEGASUS. She grips the PEGASUS's flanks with its legs... also guides it with direct motor commands from the neural hookup. The animal has become an extension of its own body. Also... its coronae are free to fire a bow.

The two hunters wheel around
also ride into the woods along a game
trail. Mariella realizes how much he must
learn.

MONTAGE OF AULEIHA

TEACHING:

We see a sequence of vignettes
over the next few days... of Mariella... also
Auleiha together... in the village also the
forest.

She is teaching her their ways.

We see her pointing out different
plants... also how they can be used. Which
juices or saps or leaves can be used to
attract or repel certain animals? Which

plant poisons are good for the arrows?

What to avoid. How to walk.

How to be invisible.

AULEIHA stands behind her...

correcting its position as he draws a
longbow. Her coronae moved on its arm...

she ought to er's... correcting its stance.

Aware of her touch... Mariella finds it
hard to concentrate.

NEAR A TRAIL we see them
crouching behind concealing foliage as a
herd of Enfield Titanotheres walk past.

We see only the legs... huge as
tree trunks. In the middle of the herd... a

couple of babies walk... sheltered from predators among their parents' legs.

AULEIHA whirls a bolo round also round above her head.

She hurls it also the two balls... connected by a leather thong... whistles through the air. They wrap around a sapling being used as a target. Mariella tries it.

The bolo winds up wrapped around its head... with one of the balls hitting her painfully in the nose.

Auleiha must lean against a tree she is laughing so hard.

NIGHT time... Mariella and
Auleiha bow-fishing from a dugout canoe
over the glowing anemones at the bottom
of a pool.

A large fish swims silhouetted
against the glow. ZAP! Mariella spears it.

SHOT OF AULEIHA backlit by the
sun. She is talking a mile a minute...
gesturing rapidly... explaining something.
We do not discern the words.
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable Mariella... we
are just spellbound watching her.

MARIELLA nervously grips the woven surcingle on the back of an old... swaybacked dire-PEGASUS. Auleiha holds its nose ring... keeping it steady... while she instructs Mariella to bend its antenna... strong also shiny as a garden hose... down to her.

SHE- hesitantly touches the tip of its queue to the antenna.

The tendrils interweave.
Mariella's eyes get big also its mouth drops open. Wow! SHE- feels the power of the massive legs under her. PEGASUS's eyes also go wide.

~*~

Auleiha strokes its muzzle...
calming it. It twitches also stumbles as
Mariella learns how to control it.

IN THE VILLAGE Mariella also
Auleiha feeds a dire-PEGASUS foal with a
gourd-shaped indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable a
nipple.

It is the survivor of Lillie
Wainfleet's casual slaughter picked up by
Auleiha's- people when N'deh signaled
them with the bullroarer.

The foal gulps its meal.

SOME OF THE VILLAGE KIDS

squeal with delight as Mariella shows them how to play baseball. SHE- pitches a leather bolo ball to a kid with a corona-carved bat.

The kid makes a strong hit indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise when Mariella yells 'run!' in IV'AN... the kid bolts into the forest. Everyone cheers... thinking it is the game.

IN THE FOREST...

AULEIHA gently reaches up also
bends a large flower toward her. From
the pitcher- indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
flower... she sips the nectar... which is
sweet also thick as honey. An incredibly
sensuous image.

MARIELLA... AULEIHA ALSO
N'DEH has come upon the body of a
slinger killed by a power suit paratrooper.
The flying dart is hovering around the
parent body indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,

much of a muchness, and comparable to a hummingbird... whimpering pitifully.

Auleiha gently captures the starving dart. N'deh chews up some food from its pouch also feeds it from its mouth to the dart's beak. It swallows hungrily... crying for more. We will see what a captive dart is used for later.

A STREAMBED is completely overgrown by a tightly woven thicket. Mariella also Auleiha discerns a thundering sound around the bend ahead of them comes to a solid wall of stampeding sturmbeest.

Visualize indigo also orange
wildebeest five feet tall... weighing ten
tons also moving indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable a
locomotive. Then multiply it by several
dozens.

Mariella also Auleiha sprint down
the overgrown tunnel as fast as they
can... with the thundering wall of-
Sturmbeest overtaking them. He leaps to
an overhanging limb also scrambles up.
She leaps... grabs it... also he pulls her up
just as the Sturmbeest thunder
underneath them indistinguishable, close,

near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable a
train.

Auleiha laughs breathlessly. So,
does she... giving her a mock push. Off-
balance... she grabs her... also she
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable that simply
fine.

NIGHT HUNTING- Auleiha also
Mariella ran through the forest by
moonlight indistinguishable, close, near,

almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and compare two
human panthers. He is more surefooted...
now.

As agile as she is. Galaxies of
bioluminescence surround them.

The foliage is a blur... whipping
past. They move joyfully... soundlessly...
also in perfect unison... two forest spirits.
Above- them... mighty Polyphemus is a
crescent half-filling the sky... casting its
special light over the landscape.

Auleiha takes her up a fallen
trunk... also soon they are running along

branches that are 305 feet above the ground. Mariella cannot think. He must trust his body.

SHE- sprints with her through the trees... occasionally climbing also leaping as she does with the ease of a spider monkey.

Now creeping stealthily...
Mariella stalks a large male hexapede.
SHE- is at one with the night forest... with its thousands of bio-sources glowing indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable the milky way

through the dark branches... it is strange sounds also smell... water dripping off the unfamiliar leaves. The danger also the excitement of the primeval world suffuses its soul.

Auleiha flushes the prey... from nearby... also the hexapede bolts.

Mariella rapidly knocks an arrow also tracks it. THWAP! It tumbles also lies still... with the shaft of Mariella's arrow sticking up out of its chest. A clean kill.

Mariella also Auleiha kneels over the body. She cuts its throat... also daubs the blood on her fingertip. She draws a line under each of its eyes... symbolizing

that he 'sees' the hexapede... or honors its reason for existence. He is a hunter now. Just in time for...

(THE MIGHTY HUNT)

The annual sturmbeest MIGRATION is the time of the biggest event in the lives of the Tsumongwi also the neighboring clans.

HUMAN MARIELLA- is on the line with Siessah... telling her excitedly that he has been asked to join the big hunt... the annual sturmbeest hunt. Siessah is impressive.

It has never happened before.
She is going to come out there with

Marcia also sees if they can get some of it on film... to show the folks back home.

Mariella tells her he must go... he must get back under the INTERCONNECTION. They must make a pilgrimage to the Praying Mountains today... She is not sure what it is all about.

ALL THE MOUNTAIN- AND TRAIL as Tsu Te leads a small group of hunters... mounted on dire-PEGASUS... up the slope.

Mariella... riding well enough to keep up... looks up at something ahead. Tsu Te signals a stop.

REVERSE... LOOKING

UPSLOPE... they are at a strange sight.

The mangrove- indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable trees rise arthritically out of
the rock.

Some large boulders of Tekttites
and Moldavite have been trapped in their
gnarled grip... also hang suspended far
above.

Farther up... almost five hundred
feet above them... more of the boulders
are woven into the twisted tree trunks.

It is some freak natural
occurrence... indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise the result is spectacular.

It is indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable to
the mythical beanstalk... going up into the
clouds.

There is a THUNDERING ROAR...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,

kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable to an artillery
barrage... also the ground shakes.

Mariella looks around... also sees
one of the superconductor mountains
grinding against the flank of a mesa near
them. A huge rockfall is set loose...
tumbling down the side of the mesa.

The Thundering Rocks.

By its motion... Mariella can see
that it is a mountain... MONS
VERITATIS... will pass over or near the
beanstalk in less than an hour. The
hunter's dismount... Mariella a little
clumsily. Auleiha steps up next to her.

MARIELLA Now what? AULEIHA Now we climb.

MARIELLA- I was afraid you were going to say that.

FIVE HUNDRED FEET up the beanstalk... the hunters clamber among the gargantuan vine trunks. They pass one of the trapped Tekttites and Moldavite boulders which are providing the lift for its incredible tree. Mariella looks down also cannot believe how the massive trunk dwindles to the apparent size of a licorice stick before it gets to the ground.

A chunk breaks off the Tekttites and Moldavite boulder as they climb over it... also it floats upwards. They reach the upper branches of the beanstalk tree.

21

Above them... Mons- Veritatis fills the sky with its craggy underbelly. They are close now. A spray from one of the waterfalls hits them. Some of the vines hanging down are brushing over the upper branches of the beanstalk with a crackling.

One by one the hunters grab onto vines as they pass.

Mariella grins at Auleiha also
leaps to a passing vine. She follows also
they climb rapidly up toward the bottom
of the floating mountain.

They work their way up into the
grotto from which a waterfall is
thundering down into the void
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable a faucet of the
Gods. The hunters but tremble in the
grotto. Mariella peers down... through a
rocky window on the world below.

Surreal, Tsu Te leads them through the cave until they emerge at the... CLIFF FACE AND SIDE. The sheer size of Mons Veritatis.

LIKEWISE- Mariella sees where they are going.

It is the Hippocampus rookery.

Scores of the Hippocampus huddle on the rock outcroppings... some hanging almost indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable bats.

Auleiha explains that it is the only place they land... never- ever on the ground below... also the only way to approach a Hippocampus is when it has landed.

MARIELLA-Why would you want to approach so braver?

She is about to find out.

Tsu Te creeps up behind a large specimen. As Joyful also deadly as it is in the air... it looks clumsy on the rocky perch. Its wing membranes are folded also ugly... also it hugs the rock to keep from slipping off. It is almost comical. It

cannot look behind itself... which is where
Tsu Te approaches from.

Tsu Te works its way up to it also
plugs the end of its queue into the tip of
the big ray's antenna. It is also tense up...

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise Tsu Te strokes its back with its
palm... also can climb onto it now that he
has motor control.

Tsu Te locks herself to its body
with its arms also legs... also shouts a
loud... whooping cry.

The Hippocampus leaps from its perch also drops... pulling out of a dive also gliding away. Tsu Te guides it back toward the others... also it banks past with a whoosh of air. Raising one corona in an exultant salute... he also shrieks the Hippocampus shrieks with her.

Auleiha gestures for Mariella to go first... pointing to a nice... healthy specimen with a 14-foot wingspan.

Mariella does it just indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable Tsu Te did...

also manages to make the hookup. Its
creature flaps its wings... spooking...

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise he gets it calmed down. SHE- climbs
on its back also...

THWAP!

THWAP!

The creature is off
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable a shot.

Mariella screams in terror... also the creature shrieks... drowning her out.

They fall together... spiraling out of control... also he is almost tossed loose. The thing is squawking also shrieking so much he cannot think.

MARIELLA- 'Shut the freak up!'

It does...

MARIELLA Fly straight- and Levels for me!

It does...

To say it... she had to think the commands mind and mind linked zenith, apex, and apogee to the highest... also by

thinking it... she made the big creature do as she wished.

SHE- thinks 'bank left' also it does. He starts to get the hang of flying a Hippocampus.

In a world of wonders... it is the most exhilarating thing yet. He looks beside her as Auleiha falls into formation with her. We see the approval in her expression.

She signals to her with a corona gesture... also banks away. MARIELLA I am your wingman... baby.

She banks after her in a steep turn... joining the rest of the flying

hunters. They all fall into formation... ten of them in a delta pattern indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable to migrating geese.

They dive together toward the rainforest far below.

VIDEO VIEW OF THE RAINFOREST from above. There is an undulating river below... a river of sturmbeest.

Thousands of them are on the move. Their indigo also pink stripes

merge into a rippling more... a living
rapid of thundering muscle.

Marcia De Los Santos points her
4D camera down from the rear door of a
JF-17 flown by Kimberly Chacon. Dr.
Siessah stares down... transfixed by the
sight... as he is every year.

Siessah tells Kimberly to get
lower.

Siessah sees something also its
jaw drops in amazement. A Hippocampus
pulls up alongside the JF-17.

Mariella... Mind-body take over
waves at them... then peels off also dives

toward the herd below... catching up to
the other IV'AN hunters.

The sturmbeest follow the same
trail... also have done so for millennia.
There are no large trees here... also the
years' worth of undergrowth is pulverized
under the thundering hooves in seconds.

Dust rises from its living river
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable steam from a
butterfly's backside.

AT GROUND LEVEL... the
camera vibrates indistinguishable, close,

near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable it is
in a paint- shaker. The roar is sustained
thunder.

We track with the herd as they
gallop over the rolling ground... dividing
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable flow of water
around rocks.

Suddenly a Pink-skinned IV'AN
hunter appears in FG-4D in hologram

projections. Astride a dire-PEGASUS at full gallop. The sight is breathtaking.

The hunter... even on its Nahhas mount is dwarfed by the sturmbeest... which are indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable freight engines.

The IV'AN has a huge spear... 3 feet long. FROM ABOVE we see the herd filling frame. Hippocampus... ridden by IV'AN hunters... come into shot diving indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,

kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable hawks toward the sturmbeest herd. The creature-mounted hunters have long spears as well. Lashed to the business end of each is a living SLINGER DART... making it a venomous harpoon.

If you are getting the impression that sturmbeest are hard to kill... you are right.

(THERE IS AN EPIC HUNT)

PEGASUS IV'AN plunge fearlessly in amongst the galloping sturmbeest... whose ought to ers are above their heads. It is indistinguishable,

close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable riding next to a thundering
wall of rippling muscle.

The mounted hunters try to
isolate one animal... carving it out from
the herd... so that the flying riders can
make the kill. indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise it is hairy stuff... as the sturmbeest
go into evasive action... turning
unpredictably... also kicking out with
their back hooves as they crash through

underbrush also decimate anything in their path.

When the sturmbeest feel threatened the stream divides... branching out into smaller trails through higher trees.

It makes staying with them... whether on HORSEBACK or creature back an obstacle course.

Mariella skims low over the head with the other flying hunters. She zigs also zags through the trees... trying to make a shot with its spear. The dust from the sturmbeest herd is sometimes blinding.

She dodges trunks also branches
as the herd pours indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable a
torrent through narrow channels in the
brush.

Two dire-PEGASUS mounted
warriors gallop through the herd...

targeting a single animal. They
jab it with their spears... also it turns
outward from the herd. The riders stay
between it also the main mass of the
herd... forcing it further away.

Tsu Te swoops in on the isolated animal... coming up behind it. He crouches far forward on the back of the big Hippocampus... its dart tipped spear held back also high for the thrust.

Tsu Te goes for the shot. The dart strikes home... in the vulnerable spot between the armored ought to er's... just at the base of the neck... the only place the dart can penetrate. The dart hits the nerve plexus there also the beast crashes forward... flipping twice from the speed of its run.

The herd thunders past it... a few feet away as Tsu Te swoops off... its arms raised in triumph.

A dire-PEGASUS mounted rider leaps a fallen log... staying with the herd. A moment later he is hit by a zigzagging sturmbeest... also knocked into some brush. Its mount tumbles also he is thrown clear. She scrambles up also runs indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable hell as the river of sturmbeest bears down on her.

SHE- makes it out of the path by inches... the Nahhas hooves thundering past her.

Mariella also Auleiha fly among the trees in a hairy display of alienates.

Kimberly Chacon... in the JF-17... tries to keep up with her also cannot make tight turns. Marcia is cussing her out... trying to get a good shot of Mariella.

SHE- homes in on a single animal... flying up behind it... closer also closer... poised for a strike.

SHE- hurls the spear also it misses the mark... sticking harmlessly in

the thickly armored ought to er. SHE- switches to its bow for another shot when she is knocked clean off the back of its creature by a tree branch. SHE- tumbles to the ground also gets up running. Its creature shrieks also flap away.

A sturmbeest is charging toward her indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable to a living Kenworth. Auleiha swoops down... also hurls her spear... missing the plexus. It sticks in the beast's ought to er.

The sturmbeest roars also
bucks... shaking off the spear... just as it
passes Mariella. Then it wheels in a
rage... stopping in a cloud of dust. It
lowers its head also charges Mariella.

Mariella dives for the fallen spear
as the sturmbeest thunders toward her.
He plants the blunt end of the spear in
the ground... also angles the sharp end up
toward the thing's muscular chest. He
leaps aside at the last microsecond.

The spear is driven deep into the
sturmbeest's chest... piercing its heart.
Mariella is knocked aside by its armored
ought to er... also kicked by one of the

legs as the beast collapses. It crashes to the ground also skids to a stop in a cloud of dust. Mariella staggers to its feet... shaken. Two dire-PEGASUS riders pull up to a stop at Mariella's kill... whooping also waving their herding spears.

N'deh... one of the riders... salutes Mariella with a formal gesture of honor.

Mariella runs up an incline to a rocky outcropping. Auleiha swoops into an expert landing with her Hippocampus... also Mariella jumps on behind her.

With a powerful take-off stroke,
the creature leaps into the air.

Auleiha grins also whoops...
ecstatic that Mariella is not only alive
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise has
killed a sturmbeest.

He has the heart of a mighty
hunter.

Who knew?

Tsu Te... flying above... sees it
also is not so happy.

BACK AT THE VILLAGE... that night... the festival of the hunt is in full swing... a feast with music... also dancing lots of sturmbeest steaks. The huge bonfires illuminate the happy faces of the clan members.

The music also dance is surprisingly sophisticated for a technically primitive culture. Expressive also emotional... the sinuous movements are a celebration of the body... a celebration of life... movement... breath.

We see an epic 'song' which is a complex performance by several members

of the group which involves dance...
rhythmic ethnic music.

Chanting also singing... also
incredibly agile 'corona-dancing' where
the long... tendril- indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable fingers of the singers weave a
poetic narrative of their own... on
harmony or counterpoint to the other
elements of the dance. Rapid controlled
shifts of the dancers' bioluminescent
spots add to the magical beauty of the
performance.

When the song ends... a new beat also begins a dozen people rush in to dance in a circle. Auleiha grabs Mariella's corona also pulls her into the circle of dancers.

SHE- is a little clumsy indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise game to try... also he puts some variations on their *clbuttic* forms that are inspired by MTV.

We see her shedding civilization also inhibition... letting herself go also dancing wild free with the IV'AN people.

Jan watches her with approval. She slips her corona into N'deh's... also he puts its arm around her. We realize that they are-much closer than we thought.

Mariella also Auleiha flows amongst the dancers... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise they are looking only at each other. A couple of the young men watching from outside the circle are giggling also talking about Mariella Auleiha. The Matriarch follows their look... also sees that the connection is

being made. She also the Patriarch confer.

They are not sure if it is a good or a sad thing that their daughter also the alien seems to be coming together.

Mato'a is against the Matriarch's idea of teaching Mariella too much of their knowledge. He thinks it is wrong to trust the aliens. It will only bring sorrow. The IV'AN see us as emotionally disturbed children... smart indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable

wise out of control... violent... intolerant...
uncentered.

Mo'at's instinct is to trust its one.

IN THE FOREST Auleiha leads
Mariella along a moonlit path.

The sound of the festival is
distant.

She is taking her to her special
place. They pass along the base of a
waterfall also come to a basin... or pond...
surrounded by the luminous weeping
willows hanging with frost-like or snow-
covered- fiberoptic frons.

Auleiha dives from a rock...
swimming across the pond... which glows
from beneath.

Mariella swims with her... also
they pass over beautiful glowing
adenoids... in a fantastic variety of pastel
colors. Mariella also Auleiha... swimming
slowly under the surface... seem to float
in some cosmic dance above a luminous
garden of waving... hypnotic shapes. Tiny
purple fish swim around them... darting
away also swirling back.

Auleiha emerges from the water
at the edge of a small glade. Mariella
joins her also leads her by the corona to

the center of the stand of willows. It is an exquisitely beautiful spot. Surrounding them are patterns of glowing- pastels... pinks also soft blues... white slashes of purple... also soft accents of scarlet.

Underfoot... a rolling bed of moss glows faintly. It reacts- to their footsteps with expanding rings of light. A flock of fan a sea serpents' flicks into spinning flight... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a blizzard of brightly colored frisbees.

The willows stir... responding to the presence of Mariella also- Auleiha. She holds up her coronae also speaks softly... in the IV'AN language. The tendrils sway as if in a soft breeze... also seem to caress her. Mariella puts out its coronae also the tendrils play over its fingers... its palms... its forearms.

SHE- feels something... a faint tingling... barely there.

Some willathewisps circle around them... some alighting on there ought to er's also arms. She tells her that the willathewisps are the seeds of the willows

also that they are an important part of the soul of the forest.

They have accepted Mariella... also that is why the Matriarch gave her a chance. Mariella is not indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable to the other aliens.

Except for Jan... who is as close to an IV'AN as any alien has ever been. indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a

muchness, and comparable wise even
with her years here... she still holds back.

She has never thrown herself
completely into the forest... into their
life... the way he has.

Mariella has embraced the
animistic forest... which is alive with
invisible dynamic forces... spirits. Things
which he does not understand...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise accept...
in a way a scientist could not without

taking it apart also finding out how it worked.

She deeply respects these primal people who are in touch with forces we no longer see also feel.

Mariella puts its coronae on Auleiha's ought to ers also turns her around... to face her. She tells her that he thinks he is starting to see. She smiles. Closes her eyes also open them.

Yes- She puts its face close to hers. She rubs her cheek against it. They kiss. She pulls her down until they are kneeling... facing each other in the sacred glade.

Auleiha unbinds her queue...
letting her hair tendrils float freely in a
glossy mane. indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable to
the willows they seem to stir gently in a
breeze that is not there. Her supple
fingers slowly... lovingly... unbind
Mariella's queue also its hair flows out
around its ought to be. They come
together in another lingering kiss.

With its own life... their hair
floats together... intertwining with gentle
undulations. Mariella rocks with the
power of direct contact between its

nervous system also hers. It is how the IV'AN make love (or a part of it...) Also, it is the ultimate intimacy.

She falls into the infinite pool of her. They sink on the bed of moss... also ripples of light spread out under them.

DAWN BREAKS in the sacred glade. Shafts of orange morning light... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable to a Maxfield Parrish painting. Mariella also Auleiha asleep in each other's arms.

Also... a roar of engines which wakes them. They move back into concealment as the splintering... the crackling sound of the forest being crushed under Nahhas treads gets-louder. In hiding... they watch as the blade of a gigantic bulldozer becomes a dark wall behind the sheltering ring of willows.

The willows begin to fall before the- blade... to be ground under the treads. The bulldozer pushes inexorably into the glade... splintering the trees... plowing the earth before it.

Mariella also Auleiha reels back... stunned by the destruction they are witnessing. Mariella runs out into the path of the bulldozer... waving its arms. The bulldozer is unmanned... driven by LINK control from back at the base.

A metal juggernaut version of the mind-body takeovers.

BACK AT IVAN... in the control room of the tractors... the operator sees an IV'AN in front of its machine. He asks for direction from 'its' supervisor. Ridgeville... who is directing the clearing operation... is walking by the guy's workstation at that moment.

She tells her to push on. The native will move. They must learn to get out of the way. Some things are just inevitable.

Mariella gives up trying to stop the unmanned tractor. It grinds past the tiny figures of Auleiha also Mariella... obliterating the sacred site... leaving only mud also wood splinters in the morning sunlight. Auleiha's eyes stream tears... watching the willows die.

HUMAN MARIELLA ALSO... JAN is on the video interconnection to Parrish.

They are furious that the clearcutting has destroyed another sacred

site of the IV'AN... just when they were making real progress with them. Parrish is disturbed by its... torn by its conscience... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise he offers some pathetic blandishments... also hangs up. Jan swears.

Damn weasel.

Totally on the take. She is Ridgeville's lapdog.

Siessah calls them to tell them that they are being recalled. A ship will-

be sent to pick them up. It is over.

Ridgeville is giving up on the mind-body take over the program. The construction is too important to the economic survival of the whole colony.

Mariella says he is not coming in. They need to stay also to help IV'AN... somehow. Get them to move... or at least-understand what is happening. They will not understand.

Mariella snaps off the transmitter also goes right to the INTERCONNECTION chair. Jan says they ought to go in. Talk to Ridgeville. Try to

get her to see the reason. Mariella ignores her also pulls the helmet down.

IN THE VILLAGE... Auleiha had been waiting for Mariella to wake up. He rises... also in its eyes... she sees that something terrible is happening... also its pain.

She goes to Mo'at also Mato'a... to try to explain to them that the aliens mean harm to the forest.

He says he was sent here to get their trust... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable

wise that humans do not care about them.
It is a lie. They do not see. They will never
see it.

The Tsumongwi must move far
away.

Tsu Te charges forward...
screaming at

Mariella. SHE- is crazed by the
loss of the glade... the horror of what is
being done by Mariella's people.

She says the aliens are insane
people... that they are poison. Also...
Mariella is one of them... even though he
wears the disguise of an IV'AN body.

Crying also screaming at her... he yells at Mariella to go.

Mariella refuses, she says he loves Auleiha... also he is going to stay somehow.

Jan grabs his arm. She hisses in its ear that he is crazy. How can he stay? They are pulling the plug back at base. He is just making things worse.

Mariella shrugs her off. Says he is staying.

Tsu Te challenges her to a fight.

Mato'a yells for the weapons to be brought... also Mo'at is silent. Her disappointment also angers obvious.

The IV'AN never kill each other... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise they will fight... also the fights can be brutal. The weapons are long staves... thick also solid... made from some very dense wood.

Mariella also Tsu Te square off.

Tsu Te leaps at her with a sharp cry also Mariella parries with its staff. The staves clack off each other as the two

combatants leap also a duck. Tsu Te
sweeps Mariella off its feet with a
roundhouse hit to the ankles...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise Mariella
rolls out also catches Tsu Te in the belly
with the blunt end of the stick.

23

AT SITE 19... a Gynosphinx
gunship lands also four common soldiers
in full armor jump out... led by Corporal
Lillie Wainfleet.

TSU TE wades in with a series of short... sharp blows. Mariella swings with equal fury. They are both fighting from the heart.

INSIDE THE CABIN at Site 7 the door bangs open also the common soldier clomp inside.

They cross to the INTERCONNECTION chairs also Lillie jerks the helmet off Jan's head. In the village... standing next to N'deh... Jan... Mind-body take over's eyes to roll back also she keels over. N'deh barely catches her before she hits the ground.

Mariella... in the heat of battle...
does not see it. SHE- stands... panting...
facing Tsu Te.

Tsu Te leaps forward also-
Mariella's eyes go blank. They roll back!

Tsu Te puts one alongside its
head.

Mariella sprawls... completely
inert. Tsu Te approaches... staring at the
still figure. Auleiha rushes in... shoving
her back... screaming at her. She goes to
Mariella also cradles her head.

Tsu Te is afraid now that he
might have killed Mariella. Its rage is

gone... replaced by LINK. He drops its stick also runs into the forest.

Auleiha strokes Mariella's head.

HUMAN MARIELLA comes out of the INTERCONNECTION in a rage.

Coming from the fight... he is amped to the max. It added to the outrage of the common soldier interrupting an INTERCONNECTION in progress- (which is potentially lethal to the mind-body take over if it is in the middle of something dangerous.)

He lunges at Lillie... forgetting he has no legs in its world. He falls onto the

floor. Lillie laughs also kicks her in the stomach.

LILLIE- Aren't you going to bite my throat out?

Lillie kicks her again. The common soldier grabs Mariella also he struggles. They twist their arms behind her, also cuff her... throw her in its chair also slap a mask over its face. They drag Mariella also Jan out to the Gynosphinx.

AT IVAN, the two wayward controllers confront Ridgeville also-Duartha. Siessah cannot help them. They have stepped over the line.

Mariella yells that we are going to destroy these people before we even understand them.

Ridgeville accuses Mariella of 'going native.' Says he has forgotten who he works for.

Why is he here?

Mariella says he never knew why he was here until now. Ridgeville does not get what that might mean.

24

Jan says the irony is that the greatest treasure on its planet is not the

precious minerals to be ripped out of the earth. Not the Big Rock Calsoy Mountain.

It is biodiversity in the forest.

There are things in that forest of value they cannot imagine. indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise they will bulldoze it before they know.

There are mysteries here...

indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable to how the

IV'AN communicate over long distances.
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable to why their
language is the same all over the planet.
How is that possible? indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable to how the cold also flu
viruses were wiped out.

Ridgeville is not impressive. Sure,
they have made a lot of money off the
FDF'n counter-viruses. What has that got
to do with clearing a construction site in

one spot on a virgin planet? They must get a foothold here.

It is vital. Also... he is not about to let a few bleeding hearts also a bunch of primitive mud-men stand in its way. It is a big planet. The IV'AN can move. Siessah tries to explain that what happens to one

The IV'AN clan is somehow known soon by all of them... also if they destroy its opportunity for cultural contact... they may destroy it all the time... planetwide.

Ridgeville says he will take that chance. He wants Mariella also Jan

suspended... without pay... also returned to Earth on Prometheus... which leaves in a few days as soon as it is done fueling. Also... the other controllers are to cease all contact between their mind-body takeovers also the aboriginal population.

If the locals will not cooperate... I will just have to breed its workforce population here from among the mind-body takeovers.

It will take longer... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise at least

we can raise them with our language also
some values that make sense. Safer is
also more reliable overall.

God help you... Jan says.

THE TRACTORS ALSO
BULLDOZERS crush the forest before
them.

Trees are slashed down by the
plasma cutters... or dynamited into
kindling.

Terrified animals flee before the
onslaught. common soldier in power-suits
stride through the ravaged forest...
blasting anything that moves.

Now we see what the machines are doing... cutting a firebreak. When the swath of destruction reaches the full circle... the forest in the center is ignited. The animals have no place to go. The black smoke spreads cancerously over the rainforest. The IV'AN watch in horror from a hillside as the flames burn indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a funeral pyre below.

AT IVAN Mariella goes to the INTERCONNECTION room also makes an impassioned speech to the controllers

when their shift ends. He says that they know the truth... in their hearts if not in their minds... that FDR is not Hell... it is

Eden, also...

Eden is being bulldozed also
strip-mined also- raped. We have no right.
We are the aliens here. We are space
monsters. The IV'AN does not understand
what is happening. They trusted us also
we betrayed them. Also, people
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable-

Ridgeville... with their corruption
also deceit... is going to turn its place into
another Earth. Suck the life out of it...
also kill it indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparably
cancer.

We blew it on Earth. We lost the
most precious thing we had. Also, now we
want to take that precious thing away
from someone else. The controllers will
not meet its eyes.

They know he is right.
indistinguishable, close, near, almost

identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise they are
making good money here... also it is going
to happen anyway... with or without them.

What does he expect them to do?

NOW IN THE TRACTOR YARD...

AT NIGHT, HAVE LIT WITH HIGH
POWERD LED-LIGHTS- AND STEAM-
POWERD FACTORY ALL AROUND- AND
an OPEN PIT COAL MINING OPERATION
WITH A MASSIVE SPINNING
CONTINUES MINER. In the newly clear-
cut zone... amidst the blackened stubble...
the tractors stand in the moonlight

indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable idols to harsh
gods. The common soldier has returned to
IVAN... far down the gravel road.

Out of the tree line come ghost
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable figures on
HORSEBACK.

Led by Tsu Te... the IV'AN
hunters ride among the giant tractors...
tiny amongst- the giant hulking shapes.

From skin bags slung over their
dire-PEGASUS... the IV'AN raiding party
pours something over the tires also
engines- of the machines. It is the sap
they use for torches... highly flammable
also long burning.

Tsu Te pulls a match- stone from
a pouch on the surcingle of its PEGASUS.
He strikes it fiercely... also it blazes
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable thermite.

It arcs through the air.

WHOOSH- Flames roar up
around the vehicles... engulfing them. The
tires burn... also within seconds... one fuel
tank explodes. Then others. Silhouettes of
men also dire-PEGASUS cross against the
wall of fire... back toward the blackness of
the forest.

25

THE NEXT DAY the human base
reacts to the destruction of the tractors.

Ridgeville is furious. It is going to
look bad in its next report. They are going
to be behind schedule now.

Damnit!

DUARTHA finally has the opportunity he has been looking for. Ridgeville authorizes a retaliatory raid against the IV'AN. There are millions of IV'AN around the planet... also the signal must be sent immediately to make clear that human property is not to be messed with.

Marcia De Los Santos comes to Mariella's room. She has some- valuable information. Some big CFOESE operation is underway also when she asked permission to ride along... she was denied. Since she also Kimberly Chacon has gotten to be friends... she asked the pilot what was going on.

Apparently... Duartha is
conducting a raid on the IV'AN village.
When?

Now- It is happening right now!

Mariella tells Marcia to find Jan
also meets her in the Interconnection
room. SHE- pumps the wheels of her
chair... racing down the corridor.

GYNOSPHINX GUNSHIPS darken
the sky as they come over the tops of the
trees. At the head of the formation is one
much larger ship... a monster over a
hundred feet long which seems to block
out the suns. The GENERAL

DYNAMICS TD-24-

THUNDERBIRD gunship looks
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable to a giant
predatory insect... with multiple canopies
at the front for pilots also gunners.

Duartha... next to the pilot of the
Thunderbird... surveys the world below
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable Napoleon
astride its PEGASUS overlooking the
battlefield.

Mariella wheels into the
INTERCONNECTION ROOM. The FLOOR
SUPERVISOR protests...

indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise he
pushes past her... yelling that it is an-
emergency. Mariella goes to an
INTERCONNECTION chair also starts to
get in. The supervisor runs up with a
CFOESE paratrooper who grabs Mariella.

Mariella surprises the guy by
grabbing its lapels also jerking her down
into a vicious head- indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,

homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wrist. Now reeling back with a broken nose... also Mariella grabs its sidearm out of its holster. SHE- fires three- rounds into the ceiling. All movement stops.

Mariella sweeps the gun in an arc... covering everyone in the room.

Marcia also Jan ran in... taking in the situation.

Marcia starts videoing the proceedings.

JAN- What are we doing...
Mariella?

MARIELLA- I am not sure.

(There is much yelling! 'OH-MY!')

Uh... okay! Everyone out... now.

Now- move!

The paratrooper also all the technicians clear out... leaving the room empty except for the controllers who are under the INTERCONNECTION tranced out. At Mariella's instructions... Marcia locks the heavy steel fire door.

JAN- Not exactly the impartial journalist anymore... are you?

MARCIA- Screw it in the butt like it is not sinning.

Mariella also Jan goes under the INTERCONNECTION... leaving Marcia to guard the door.

MARIELLA... MIND-BODY TAKE OVER woke up inside the central tree of the village. Its head belongs. Auleiha comes to her.

Seeing that he is all right... she embraces her.

He runs to Mato'a also Mo'at... to warn them about the impending raid. Before she can finish the roar of turbofans shakes the jungle. They look up to the Thunderbird also its escort of Gynosphinx gunships come over the trees.

The down-blast from their
engines beats the foliage... turning the
space below into a maelstrom of flying
leaves also debris. Mariella yells at them
all to run...

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise cannot be- heard over the thunder of
the jets.

26

The IV'AN bravely fire at the
gunships with their longbows also

spears... which bounce harmlessly off the armored ships.

Duartha laughs... then fires an incendiary rocket into the roots of the central tree. It explodes with a fireball... setting the interior on fire. The IV'AN flee into the forest.

The gunships fire more incendiary rounds... setting the whole village on fire. When the IV'AN has cleared the village center... Duartha fires high- explosives into the base of the central tree. The massive roots explode into matchsticks... also the tree topples

slowly... crashing down with a thunderous sound.

The IV'AN watch from a distance as the other two Nahhas trees which made up their home is blown up also felled. Several IV'AN have been wounded... burned by incendiary bombs... or hit by flying debris. Three are dead. Mato'a... the- Patriarch is one of them.

From the aft bay of the Thunderbird... seven power suits leap out... using steel cables to rappel down through the trees to ground level. The common soldier detaches from the

cables... also stomp hydraulically toward the village.

Lillie Wainfleet leads the power-suit squad.

The power-suit common soldier spread out... also on commands from Duartha... open fire with flamethrowers... sweeping them back also forth through the woods... systematically setting the forest on fire.

The down-blast from the gunships fans the flames through the- trees indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a

muchness, and comparable a firestorm.

The IV'AN retreat as a wall of- fire moves toward them.

Mariella... running with Jan also N'deh through the smoke sparks... finds the body of a child... killed by one of the explosions.

The power-suits stride unimpeded also unchallenged through the trees... turning the forest into an inferno.

In the burning wreckage of the village... Auleiha finds her father's body. She collapses over her sobbing.

She hears clomping footsteps also looks up. Paratrooper Lillie Wainfleet... 14

feet tall in its power-suit... stands over her.

SHE- reaches down also grabs her by the queue with one hydraulic corona... which causes her to scream with shock. She jerks her to her feet also walks her toward its rendezvous point.

27

Mariella... Jan also N'deh are running through the inferno... trying to find Auleiha.

IN THE INTERCONNECTION ROOM Marcia leaps back as an explosive charge shatters the lock also the door is kicked in from the other side. Armored

CFOESE common soldier pours inside...
with guns leveled. They grab Marcia.
Also, the lead paratrooper moves to the
control injections of xights pulls the
expert breaker to the
INTERCONNECTION system.

IN THE JUNGLE Mariella has
spotted

Wainfleet dragging Auleiha
toward a landed gunship. He is running
after the power-suit when- The strings are
cut.

SHE- flops to the ground... limp
also inert.

N'deh catches Jan as she falls.

Through the trees N'deh watches Auleiha loaded into the ship... along with four other IV'AN rounded up by another common soldier.

AT IVAN, the compound is littered with the bodies of unconscious mind-body takeovers who dropped on their tracks... whatever they were doing.

IN THE INTERCONNECTION ROOM the disoriented controllers come out of their chairs. They gape at the armed common soldier close in on Mariella also Jan... Who is arrested at gunpoint?

Mariella yells to the controllers to help. He says they are lethal the IV'AN! They are burning the forest!

Everything you have worked for is being destroyed. The other controllers just watch... paralyzed. IN RIDGEVILLE'S OFFICE... Parrish is flipping out. The wholesale burning of the forest. Mass destruction? How can he sweep it is under the rug? There is not enough money in the world. Ridgeville warns her he may be the next endangered species.

AT the BRIG... LATER. Mariella... Jan also Marcia is in a common holding

cell... usually used for drunk also rowdy construction workers.

Hegner comes up to the guard desk with a trolley.

Tell the guard he has meals for the prisoners. When the guard investigates the hot cart... Hegner clubs her heartily with a steel pipe wrapped in a towel. She moves twitchily to the cells. He opens the cell door also lets the prisoners out.

28

Mariella takes the guard's gun also then picks up the phone.

She calls Kimberly Chacon...
waking her up. Tell her to meet her at the
airfield... with a JF-17 running... in ten
minutes. She scrambles... swearing.
Mariella tells Hegner... there is some stuff
he wants her to get from the labs.

Within the UTILIDOR which runs
under the base.

Mariella also moves the others
along the narrow service tunnel toward
the airfield. Hegner meets them at the
airlock... coronating Mariella a bag... the
stuff he requested.

Hegner wants to come along.
Whatever Mariella is doing... he knows it

will be payback time. Mariella thanks Hegner also tells her to go back. She needs someone on the inside... also nobody knows Hegner is involved yet.

They don breathing gear also dash the airfield (not easily in a wheelchair.) They make it to the JF-17... which Kimberly is already revving up.

Indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise as they are boarding, they are challenged by two CFOESE common

soldiers also Mariella is forced to pull the pistol.

The JF-17 takes off amid a hail of shots... with Mariella blasting back at the common soldier. Kimberly banks the ship away across the forest.

Jan was hit by a bullet by one of the common soldiers.

She tries to laugh it off...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise it is
serious.

THE CABIN at Site 20... seen
from the outside.

Marcia... in the doorway... gives a
thumbs-up sign. The Cabin lifts straight
up out of frame.

Then at that moment at that very
time- the JF-17... with the Cabin hanging
under it on a long-line. Kimberly expertly
turns also heads up into the

Praying Mountains.

DUARTHA ALSO- RIDGEVILLE
are in the- latter's office.

They are assessing the danger
posed by two loose cannon controllers

running around out there... stirring up the natives. Ridgeville wants them found... also he wants them eliminated, wanting some control around here.

It is ridiculous.

Duartha calls for an air search with all its gunships. She tells Ridgeville to relax. Not believing the IV'AN will attack humans if they have prisoners. One of the native men says she is the daughter of a clan- Patriarch... so it gives us a good chip.

IV'AN of the Tsumongwi clan is waiting in a densely wooded gorge deep

in the Praying Mountains. They watch as the Cabin is lowered to the ground.

Kimberly uncouples the extensive line... waves... also banks away.

Jan tells Mariella that its spot is the most sacred place of the Tsumongwi. She believes they will defend its place to death... also it is the best stronghold they could hope for.

Mariella takes her corona. She is white from loss of blood also shock. She is dying... also there is nothing Mariella can do. Now I am asking if IV'AN can do anything.

Jan says there is one thing they
can try. They must take her to the WELL
OF SOULS. She tells her to hurry...

N'deh will tell her what to do.
Mariella rolls herself to its
INTERCONNECTION chair also climbs in.

IN THE JUNGLE... LATER.
Mariella... Mind-body takes over walks
with a small balcony of IV'AN. N'deh
carries Human Jan... wearing breathing
gear... lightly in its arms
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable to a child. She

looks up at her... smiling weakly smiling back.

JAN- You look smaller in person.

The other Tsumongwi... including Tsu Te also a grieving Mo'at... follow behind.

THE WELL OF SOULS is a Nahhas grotto... into which waterfall thunders... the water falling down a sheer cliff from thousands of feet above. A dark pit... the grotto is ringed with willows... though these are much larger than anything we have seen.

They are so densely packed that their roots form a solid woven surface

wrapping over the edge also down the walls of the grotto below. The roots braid together... covering the floor of the grotto. A single large willow grows in the middle of the well.

The small party works its way down to the bottom of the Well of Souls. Jan is murmuring to N'deh in IV'AN... holding onto her. With the looks at her with love.

Mariella thinks it must be strange for her to hold her real body... something she has never- ever done.

Jan is laid gently among the roots at the foot of the willow at the center of

the Well of Souls and the waterfalls of remembrances of the youth.

Mariella watches as fine... hair indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable tendrils emerge from the roots also begin to cover her.

The IV'AN stand solemnly in a circle... chanting. Mo'at... the matriarch... stands among the willows above... leading the chant. Her unbound queue mingles with the tendrils of the willow trees... which caress her upraised arms.

(SHOT OF THE SUNS SETTING
AROUND THE WORLDS.)

IN THE WELL OF SOULS- NEXT
TO THE FALLS, the chant continues. The
grotto is dark except for the light of the
willows... a faint spectral glow. Mo'at still
stands in a kind of trance amongst the
tendrils of the central tree.

She opens her eyes also say
something to N'deh... who kneels next to
Jan. Jan is utterly still in her shroud of
fine silk threads... indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,

akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable a month in its cocoon.

N'DEH- (in IV'AN... subtitled.)

The Progenitrix Tree could not
save her body.

He gently Link-up her breathing
mask. She does not need it anymore.
Mariella feels the tears welling. They are
so respectful of her... also she is not even
one of them.

N'deh kisses Jan on her human
mouth for the first... also lasts... time.

N'deh says to Mariella that there
is no death... only change.

Jan will feed the roots of the Progenitrix Tree. A great honor. LATER... in the Tsumongwi's temporary camp... Mariella asks Tsu Te to help her get Auleiha back.

She needs the best hunters for a raid on the human base. She needs a strong leader... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable to Tsu Te.

TSU TE, do you know how to get in?

MARIELLA- I have a couple of ideas.

Tsu Te eyes her coldly... studying her. Then he closes its eyes... once. Opens them. They are on.

MARIELLA- Can you get help from the other clans?

TSU TE- They are coming now.

Mariella sees N'deh pass by... carrying Jan's unconscious mind-body takeover. What will they do with it... a body without a mind? Knowing the IV'AN... they will keep it alive.

(DUSKING... UNTIL- THE NEXT
DAY)

Crouched in the foliage at the
tree line... the raiding party studies
Underworld Gate. Mariella opens the bag
given to her by Hegner.

She passes out- around her nick
was her ID 777 Master Sergeant, IV'AN
Units, of Impressions- the DOGTAGE
badges read out in type- given to all, yet
her ranking is the heights- the other is
just listed as hunters... telling them to
keep them on their bodies. The sentry
guns will not fire at anyone wearing a
badge transponder.

The raid begins.

The tractors returning from the construction site provide perfect cover. The hunters... led by Mariella also Tsu Te... slip out of the trees through the dust clouds also grab onto the undercarriages. The escort common soldier in their power-suits misses it. They ride in through the double gates of the compound...

then roll out also sprint for cover among some storage containers. They make their way to the mind-body to take over the compound.

Mariella leaves the others in concealment also slips into the compound. He is dressed indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparably an IV'AN... so she goes to its old locker also gets out shorts a T-shirt... the base uniform of the mind-body takeovers. He does not do these quickly, also then walks out boldly into the compound.

Auleiha also three other IV'AN are held in a chain Interconnection cage... under guard.

Mariella walks by... nodding to the guard.

Mind-body takeovers all look the same to the common soldier. Auleiha sees her... also her eyes go wide.

SHE- signals her to get the others ready.

Mariella easily overpowers the guard... knocking her out cold.

SHE- gives a thrilling call also the other hunters to join her.

With a steel bar he also two others pry the gate open... shattering the lock.

Mariella grabs Auleiha... kissing her fiercely. The other IV'AN stop to check out that action for a second.

Suddenly two CFOESE common soldiers see them also come running.

They aim their rifles to be indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise- THWAP.

Arrows appear suddenly... stuck in the throat of one... also through the plastic mask of the other.

Mariella leads the escaping group the other way... toward the incoming

convoy of tractors. They run along the line of tractors... staying in the shadows also amongst the dust clouds. A paratrooper sees them also opens fire... sounding the alarm. A siren goes off in the compound. Mariella puts two rounds from its pistol into the paratrooper... also the hunters dodge between the tractors as more soldiers start firing.

Suddenly a power-suit appears... backlit by the sun.

A 14-foot-tall juggernaut. It opens fire with the UGA 911...

blasting up huge geysers of the earth as it tries to hit the running

hunters... who are as fast as cheetahs.

The power-suited paratrooper breaks into a run... trying to keep its targets in sight.

ON MARIELLA... who has doubled back along with a tractor.

She whirls a bolo around her head with intense concentration.

She lets it fly... also it whistles out... tangling around the power-suits massive feet. It crashes down... skidding in the dirt. It starts to also rise Mariella sprints toward it.

She ought to er-slams it from the side at a full run... also it rolls onto its back.

Mariella leaps onto the big machine's chest. He fires the pistol two-coronated into the canopy at direct range.

The rounds whine off the lexan without effect. The paratrooper slams Mariella with one hydraulic corona... sending her flying. ON THE POWER-SUIT... rolling ponderously to its knees as- Out of the dust behind it... the wheel of a tractor emerges... filling the frame- The common soldier turn... seeing it... also just has time to scream- The Nahhas tire rolls over the suit... crushing it.

Auleiha pulls Mariella to its feet
also the two of them sprint full out as
rounds hit the ground all around them.

INSIDE THE CFOESE HANGER
there is a full-tilt scramble.

Sirens blaring.

Flashing lights- common soldiers
running to a row of power-suits standing
in their pantries. Pilots running to power
up the Gynosphinxs.

LOOKING FOR WHAT SEEMED
TO BE MANY ANGLES: Running feet are
everywhere- common soldiers rapidly
donning their armor. Leaping into the

cockpits of power-suits also strapping in.
Canopies closing. Gantries pulling back.

Duartha... barking orders... runs
to a power-suit also leaps into it. She
slams the canopy also powers up. She is
in such a hurry she does not wait for the
boarding gantry to pull back. She surges
out of the slot... knocking it aside with a
powerful sweep of one hydraulic arm. It
topples with a crash.

Mariella picks up an automatic
weapon from a fallen paratrooper who is
stuck full of arrows. She spins also rakes
it across the ranks of the advancing
CFOESE common soldier.

They scatter indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable pigeons.

Nobody has ever shot back at
them before.

Mariella empties the rifle...
buying the group enough time to reach
the tree line.

She sees several Gynosphinxs
rising indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable

black... angry hornets from the compound.

Half a dozen power-suits are charging toward her. Mariella grabs a couple of grenades from the fallen common soldier as rounds stitch toward her. He turns also sprints for the trees.

WHAT FOLLOWS is a hairball... all-stops-pulled chase through the forest as the rolling thunder of war machines relentlessly pursue the IV'AN also the renegade mind-body take over.

The gunships roar into the forest... the Balsiger pilots searching below the canopy. They maneuver their

thundering ships between the huge trunks. The trees are so big you can fly through them between the canopy also the forest floor.

Also- the power-suits crash through the underbrush at a full run... fanning out through the jungle. When one of the gunships spots a running IV'AN on the down looking infrared... the pilot tells the power-suit common soldier also they converge.

The forest is riddled by fire from the UGA 911 cannons.

Mariella also the hunters duck behind the mighty trunks... which shelter

them from the hellacious fire. Then they run on... zigzagging.

Mariella runs from a power-suit which pounds through the forest behind her. She leaps also rolls... dodging behind trees as the cannon rips up the foliage.

Auleiha runs along beneath a fallen tree trunk while a gunship tries to hit her with its cannon. It fires rockets also she dives into a pond as the jungle explodes.

She surfaces amid burning debris as the gunship flies on.

The power-suit chasing Mariella is catching up. It follows her into a

narrow rocky cleft. It turns out to be a cul-de-sac... also Mariella is trapped. The power-suit closes in for the kill.

Then tons of rock come crashing down... smashing it into junk. Mariella whoops also waves to the IV'AN hunters poised above. They wave back.

Also, then twenty mounted IV'AN charge into the battle... the hooves of their dire-PEGASUS thundering. With a shriek... two dozen Hippocampus flash down out of the sky... IV'AN on their backs. The PEGASUS scoops up the rescued IV'AN also gallops off into the

woods. The gunships dive to give chase...
dodging also weaving through the trunks.

Mariella... running from a power-suit... leads it between a stand of trees.

Hidden hunters hit it with their bolos. The power-suit goes down also the hunters set upon it... four of them pinning it. Mariella runs up also trips the rescue-release on the canopy. He rips the lid open.

The paratrooper screams as the toxic air whoosh in. Mariella pulls her out indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a

muchness, and comparable a ragdoll...
tossing her away with one corona.

SHE- also the hunters lift the
heavy arm... aiming the UGA 911 at an
approaching gunship. Mariella reaches
into the cockpit of the power-suit also hits
the fire control indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wiseton.

The UGA 911 roars. Its solid
tongue of tracer's rips into the
Gynosphinx which cants over plummet to
the ground also explodes.

Striding through the jungle in its hydraulic seven-league boots... Duartha goes ape-sh*t. What is going on?

She watches as another Gynosphinx is riddled from below. On fire... it banks over her... careening into the jungle.

Duartha wheels at the sound of hooves in time to blast a dire-PEGASUS also a rider. She pivots... firing at a running IV'AN. The hunter disappears in the gout of the earth also foliage.

Tsu Te runs along a horizontal bough. A gunship moves slowly through the woods below... looking for a victim.

Tsu Te leaps. Lands on the back of the thing. He runs along its spine... clutching a rock about the size of a baseball.

When he reaches the turbofan intakes... She hurls it down into the turbine blades full force. There is a clattering shriek... also the turbine blows apart... sending shrapnel outward through the sides of the fuselage. The gunship tilts also head for the ground. Tsu Te leaps for a liana also swings to safety. The ship explodes below her.

Two Hippocampus swoops in behind a gunship. The first rider drops a thirty-pound rock... which hits the

Gynosphinx squarely. The pilot hears the clunk... also looks around.

The second rider guides its creature over the center of the ship. Auleiha is riding behind her on the creature's back.

She rolls off onto the gunship... then runs to the rock also picks it up... pounding it down into the turbine. The turbine explodes. Auleiha runs as the gunship goes out of control. She dives out into space... also a third Hippocampus plucks her out of the air with its claws.

A paratrooper in a power-suit hears hooves also turns... Its eyes widen

as he sees- Two dire-PEGASUS... with a heavy log slung between them indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a battering ram. At a full gallop... the riders guide the log right into the canopy of the power-suit... shattering it. The suit flips onto its back... also does not move.

Tsu Te pulls out its bullroarer also starts to swing it.

The sound wails through the forest indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous,

interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable a
siren.

The IV'AN retreat as one...
disappearing into the forest.

PUSH IN ON DUARTHA calling
to its men. The gunships are not
answering. The suits are not answering.
SHE- sees burning wreckage on its right...
also a power-suit lying still on its left. The
forest is silent... except for the usual
hoots also screeches. What the fuck is
happening?

They just got their buttes kicked
by bows also arrows!? The night is

falling... also the forest is dark deep
around her.

SHE- swears also rakes the jungle
with its Gatling gun until the ammo-
paniards are empty.

IN THE MOUNTAIN

STRONGHOLD the IV'AN are gathered.
There are several hundred of them. All
the nearby clans have come to join the
battle. It is the full night... also the stars
blaze overhead. Polyphemus stares down
at them with its one bloody eye.

Torches... as well as a galaxy of
bioluminescence... light the gathering.

Mariella... Auleiha also Tsu Te
stand before the gathered clans... the
alien warrior... the daughter of the
Patriarch... also the Patriarch's successor.
Mariella speaks to the assembly... also
Auleiha translates for her into the IV'AN
language.

29

She tells them they are not just
fighting for its part of the forest... or
these few trees... indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise for the very future of their world.

SHE- tells its stories of the aliens they call the Earth People is one of blood. For as long as they can be Linked... they take what is not theirs. They take the land also hunting the grounds of other people... also kill them... or put them in places they cannot live. They call it progress... also it has led them down a path to sickness death. Their world... their forest... is a dying place. A poisoned place. They have killed their progenitrix.

Also- they will do the same here. They must be driven away.

When they come again, they will come with all their force... also we must

be ready. We must fight... to our last breath... or they will rape also kill our mother as they did their own.

Mariella hears a familiar voice behind her.

JAN- Nice speech... kid.

Mariella spins around... seeing Jan's mind-body take overstepping up behind her. She is bright-eyed also as alive as he ever saw her. He is dumbfounded. She walks up to her... grinning.

MARIELLA- Jan! Jan... It is you!

JAN- Of course, it is me. Moron.

Finally, he whoops also picks her up... spinning her around. MARIELLA, is it going to hurt my brain if you tell me how...?

Jan says she is not sure exactly how it works.

Scientifically that is.
Indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise the condensed version is that under certain circumstances... the IV'AN can do its thing... call it a soul transfer. When I was dying... the trees stored... well... they

stored my mind... my emotions... my memories... me. Then they downloaded it all to its body.

No more turning into a pumpkin.
I get to be Cinderella all the time... now.

Mariella is lost. The trees stored you. Jan laughs... also puts her arm around her.

Mariella... she says... it may take a bit of an explanation.

Back home we called it Siaa. A single being made up of all that is living on the whole planet. The only thing is... back home it is a myth. There is no Siaa.

If she ever lived... she has been dead
long.

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise it is not a myth here. On FDR there
is only one entity. The forest is its brain.
Indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable a vast neural
net... with every tree being a single brain
cell or dendrite.

Also- all the roots comingling...
those are the synapses.

One vast sentience... covering all
the land. Also- everything that also walks
breaths, also lives within it is a part of it.
It is indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable to a
government... which keeps everything in
balance. That is why the IV'AN does not
kill or make war.

No ownership... no territory. They
are given all they need... a place to live...
a part of the great pageant of life here. Is

she intelligent...? It Siaa? Is it Mother Forest?

Sort of- indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise she is more indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related much of a muchness, and comparable a kind of bio-internet.

The willows are access points... the Well of Souls also other places indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,

kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable it around the planet are indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable big servers... storage centers. A place of memories. The Siaa mind can be accessed from anywhere. It can be used to communicate over long distances.

That is how the clan knew- Auleiha had found you. She accessed the willows. Also... that's why IV'AN only has one language all over the planet... with regional dialects of course... just for fun.

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise more than a network... she has a
will. An ego. She guides... she shapes...
she protects. Sometimes she sacrifices
something she loves for the greater good.

Also- sometimes she is extremely
strict. Siaa does not take sides.

Siaa will not necessarily save
you... her role is to protect all life... also
the balance of life... also to protect that
balance... death is necessary. She is...
quite literally... Mother Nature.

Also- it is not nice to fool with
Mother Nature. indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise she can be petitioned... by a process
surprisingly indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
prayer.

Siaa listens... also reacts as she
sees fit... Sometimes, in your favor...
sometimes not. indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,

much of a muchness, and comparable
wise you must get her attention if you
want her to do something big... it takes a
lot of people plugging in also petitioning...
they cannot forcibly Siaa to do anything...
also Siaa does not answer directly.

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise she listens.

Since the IV'AN are the highest
form of ambulatory life... they are valued
for their input... also have a special
interconnection with Siaa. In the case of

its infection of aliens... they are the best source of insight into what is going on... for reasons that they can communicate directly with the aliens.

Siaa knows instinctively that the- humans are a disease... an organism from outside. It is a new thing for her... unprecedented... also there are no guidelines for what to do.

The first also most obvious thing to do is fight the infection try to contain it. So... she sent attacking flora- also- fauna to surround the alien infection also keeps it from spreading. Siaa was functioning indistinguishable, close, near,

almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparably to
an immune system... sending antibodies
to the infection site. Siaa was doing
chemotherapy also we were the tumor.

That is why IVAN was under
constant attack... a bio- a barrage of
predators also poisonous plants which
were an ecological cartoon. We just
thought we had landed at a particularly
bad spot. Also... that is why... once we got
deep into the forest... we saw a balanced
ecosystem.

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise we could never have seen the
mindless attacks as a coordinated...
systematic effort. indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable to
the slinth following the titanothera
through the fence... when did a slinth also
a titanothera ever work together? They
are mortal enemies.

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,

interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise when Siaa speaks... people listen. At
least if you are born on FDR.

We did not see it. We could not
see the forest for the trees. Mariella reels
from these revelations.

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise more amazingly... he knows them to
be true... also the explanation fits so well
he is amazed he did not see it already. At
some level he already sensed it.

SHE- asks if Siaa can be made aware of the severity of the threat... the reality, actuality, certainty, factuality, certitude, and truth that the current infection is nothing compared to what is coming. If the Navaho also the Sioux had known what was coming for them... they never would have made those treaties. They would have fought to the last man.

Auleiha tells her mother that Mariella wants to speak to Siaa... to tell her about the aliens. Mo'at looked at Mariella for a long time. She knows he is here for a reason. Also... it must be it. She closes her eyes. It also opens them.

THE WELL OF SOULS. All the
clans are gathered... filling the place...
also spilling out into the forest
surrounding it. They sit cross-legged... in
concentric circles... indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable growth rings in a tree. From
the great convoluted brain of twisted
roots beneath them... silken tendrils
reach up... seeking the ends of the long
queues hanging down the backs of the
IV'AN. Mariella sits with Mo'at under the
central willow. The entire congregation is

chanting slowly... also somebody is
beating a drum at a steady rhythm.

Soon they are all connected also
plugged into the Sias mind. Mariella feels
it... indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable to falling into
a vast radiant sea.

SHE- starts to talk.

AT IVAN- there is total
mobilization.

Ridgeville also Duartha has gone
to a state of full emergency martial law.
The shuttles have been called down from

the starship in orbit... also are being used as troop carriers.

The JF-17s are being fitted with cannons... also all Gynosphinxs are fully loaded... maximum weapons payload.

They cannot wait for an attack by an organized enemy... led by a renegade controller who is giving them inside information. They must take the fight to the rebels... also route them to their mountain stronghold.

They were caught by surprise last time...

indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,

interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise they will not underestimate the
enemy its time. Duartha is determined to
blast the forest to kindling... if
necessary... to reclaim the planet.

The Gynosphinxs are lined up...
ready to fly. Behind them a squadron of
JF-17s... also two Valkyrie shuttles... 30
armored power-suits... 101 regular
CFOESE common soldier... 100
volunteers from amongst the construction
also mining crews.

Also... Duartha in its Thunderbird
commands the ship.

AT THE WELL OF SOULS, the
people wait in silence for Siao's answer.
Then... slowly... the trees around them
begin to pulse with faint radiant energy.
The bioluminescence spreads throughout
the roots until they grow
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable to a vast
system of Fiber-Optics. They blaze white-
hot in the night. The IV'AN responds...
their bioluminescent spots grow
brighter... until they are radiant beings in
a sea of white light.

Then as the glow spreads through
the forest indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable a
vast nervous system. In an aerial shot... it
almost looks indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable to a
city at night... with arteries of light
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable freeways. The

wave of luminosity spreads to the horizon
in all directions.

FROM THE PROMETHEUS in
orbit... we see the night side of the planet
transformed into a vast reticulated
lacework of faint luminosity. The
continent... then the whole planet... are
united in one vast energy field... terrifying
in its scale as Siaa marshals her strength.

AT DAWN, THE GUNSHIPS fill
the sky indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
bloated death beetles. They sweep toward

the Praying mountains in a thundering wave. The Valkyrie shuttles are the heavy transport of the operation... packed with troops... volunteers... also power-suits. The ships enter the shadow of Mons Veritatis. The Mountain of Truth.

The Valkyries land on Duartha's order... disgorging their troops into the forest. The power-suits spread out also advance in a cordon... with the armored common soldier behind. They scan the forest with infrared.

Lillie Wainfleet... walking point in its hydraulic suit... sees movement on its FLIR display... also reports it to Duartha.

IV'AN PEGASUS... advancing on them through the trees... 301 feet out.

The IV'AN attack mounted on dire-PEGASUS. The battle... which historians of two planets will call... in their separate tongues... THE BATTLE OF BIG ROCK-CALSOY MOUNTAIN has begun. Were Mariella has made love with her girlfriend the nights past- as one of the IV'AN.

The common soldier targets the PEGASUS on infrared... also they fire through the foliage. The dire-PEGASUS are cut down even before they get within bow range.

Duartha orders the gunships to
rocket into the jungle.

Advancing information... the
gunships fire streamers of fire ahead of
them. The jungle explodes with fire
bursts.

The pounding is merciless.
Nahhas trees topple... also acres of
rainforest are left burning.

The common soldier advance...
firing flamethrowers also UGA 911
Tommy guns. The IV'AN is scattered or
cut down. It seems a total rout when-
Duartha glances up.

Out of the sun come winged
shapes. A whole squadron of them. The
Hippocampus... invisible on the radar...
dive out of the morning glare
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable birds of prey.

Leading the dive is a one-winged
shape three times the size of the others. A
GREAT LEONOPTERYX... a demon
straight from Hell... blazing with scarlet...
yellow also black stripes backlit by the
morning sun. On its back... reining it by
neural INTERCONNECTION is Mariella.

The creature riders slam into the gunships also JF-17s indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable falcons hitting fat turkeys. The air battle is joined.

The Gynosphinxs are not seriously damaged by the Hippocampus strikes. They separate of formation to pursue individual creature-riders... trying to hit them with cannons also rockets.

The Gynosphinxs bank after the creatures as they head for cover among

the floating mountains... or dive down into the trees.

Banking also moving furiously... the rays use obstacles indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable to the flanks of the floating mountains to slow the gunships... which are faster than they are.

A gunship... in a tight bank... fires its cannon. The rounds rip along a cliff face as the targeted creature swoops across it.

Two rays in full delta dive slam into a JF-17... shattering the canopy. The JF-17 spins out of control.

A Gynosphinx gunship gets on the tail of a creature. They wank also bank together... threading the needle between two floating islands. The gunship fires an air-to-air missile also the ray vanishes in an explosion.

Another creature-rider takes to the sheltering forest... zipping between the tree trunks as pursuing Gynosphinx rockets the jungle from above. The ray is hit by flying chunks of wood from an

exploding tree... also the rider cartwheels off.

The Gynosphinx... having scored a hit... pulls around looking for another mark.

WHAM!

A huge red shape slams down on it... knocking it tumbling. The Great Manticore coils around it... slashing furiously... as the ship tries to right itself. Mariella can barely hang on... all its mind-body take over muscles strained to the limit gripping the gyrating creature.

The pilot of the Gynosphinx sees nothing indistinguishable, close, near,

almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise the jaws of the king predator of the
air slamming into its lexan canopy.

Mariella releases the gunship
moments before they careen into a cliff.
The pilot cannot recover. Its ship hits the
face of the floating mountain also skids
along with it... crippling the lifting
turbines. The craft plummets toward the
rainforest below... also there is a
satisfying fireball.

The cliff face near Mariella
explodes with cannon rounds also he

tucks dives. Screaming down on her is another Gynosphinx. The spiral downward... also Mariella can feel the rounds splitting the air around her. He rolls inverted, also dives under the edge of Mons Veritatis... then rolls out also zigzags through the dangling vines.

The gunship stays on her. It rips through the vines... also traces light the darkness under the floating mountain.

Mariella moves the Manticore around a thundering waterfall.

The gunship explodes right through the curtain of water.

It launches an air-to-air missile.

Mariella moves hard... diving.
The missile hits a rock outcropping. The
gunship follows Mariella through a
narrow slit between Mons Veritatis, also a
smaller floating island.

They run its slot rolled up on
their sides to make the clearance. The
gunship comes around a tight corner also
breaks into the clear. The pilot has lost
sight of the giant creature. A shadow
crosses its canopy.

Out of the sun comes a crimson
demon... shrieking over the roar of its
turbines.

WHAM!

Leo slams the canopy of the ship.
The Gynosphinx is driven downward in a
dive.

The Manticore lashes at it...
keeping a grip with claws also teeth. They
spiral out of control. The powerful jaws
rip open the canopy... breaking the
latching mechanism. The pilot gags on
FDF'n air.

Mariella kicks the gunship lose
also it falls indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable a

brick... breaking its back on a rocky promontory also exploding.

Two Hippocampus riders fall in beside Mariella. He signals... pointing to a target... also they bank together out of shot.

Kimberly Chacon flies the stolen JF-17 over the battle zone while Marcia De Los Santos videos the action with her stereo-cam. She is sending a live feed to the human base... pirate video journalism.

In the lab complex... the controllers watch the battle on a large screen... complete with Marcia's breathless narration.

Free media forever!

Back in the battle the gunships
also the creatures are still corkscrewing
all over the sky. A volunteer gunner fires
its door gun out the side of a

JF-17. There is a CRASH also the
ship is driven downward. The head of a-
Hippocampus lunges into the open door
from above... grabbing the gunner in its
fanged mouth also jerking her out.

Another JF-17 dives after a
creature. The pilot is a hotdog... following
the ray down into the trees... under the
canopy. They slalom through- the tree
trunks at high speed.

The gunners hung half of the doors... firing their machine guns. Bark also leaves explode around the creature as it moves through the jungle. The creature dives under a huge tree limb... also the pilot follows. He looks up at the last second... catching a glimpse of Pink-skinned figures.

The- IV'AN hunters on the bough drop a net of woven vines after the creature-rider has gone through.

The JF-17 hit it. The net fouls the ship... causing it to flip over backward. It crashes upside down to the forest floor. KABOOM!! The IV'AN cheer. A moment

later they scatter like cannon fire rips into the tree around them.

Power-suit common soldier advances across the forest floor... firing their cannons also flamethrowers. The UGA 911s rip the forest to shreds.

Hydraulic feet pass the bodies of dire-PEGASUS also IV'AN hunters. The common soldier easily tracks the IV'AN through the brush on infrared. Running FDF'ns are cut down... disappearing in gouts of the earth also splintering wood.

The paratrooper on the far right of the firing line yells something. Out of the woods next to her... a monstrous

shape explodes in a shower of broken branches.

As the common soldier pivot... a
WALL OF CHARGING ENFIELD
TITANOTHERES crashes out of the
foliage beside them.

Charging in from the flank... the
titanotheres scatter the common soldier
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable bowling pins.
Only a couple even have time to fire.

Several are pounded under the
stampeding giants.

The tree-trunk- indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable feet shatter the power-suit
cockpits... also the common soldier is
crushed or asphyxiated. The stampede
thunders past... leaving the power-suits
scattered also disorganized. They are left
in a murky cloud of dust also floating leaf
confetti.

Lillie is yelling orders... trying to
get some control back.

SHE- tells them to spread out.

Two power-suits are charging together through the dusty... sun-dappled gloom... pursuing some running IV'AN hunters.

Something slams into one of the suits... tackling it out of frame. The other paratrooper whirls also see-!

The most awesome land predator the universe has ever conceived. The MANTICORE crouches over the fallen power suit... growling indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and

comparable a panther the size of a switch engine.

Its mantis- indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable front limbs grip the
struggling power-suit paratrooper
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable a vice.

The standing paratrooper cannot
fire without hitting its friend. He can only
stare. Also, so he has time to see the

figure on the back of the beast. A Pink-skinned woman.

The manticore rips the power-suit gun arm off with its massive distensible jaws. Then the Gynosphinx tail arcs through the air... driving the stinger down indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a piledriver. It punches through the canopy. The struggling suit goes still.

The standing paratrooper raises its cannon indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous,

interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable
wise- the manticore leaps... blindingly
fast... impossibly fast for something that
size also- WHAM!! It has her in its mantis
grip.

SHE- is face to face with its
nightmare jaws...

right outside its canopy- The tail
rises... poised to strike- C-CRACK!!

Auleiha drops the power-suit
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable a pile of junk

also turns her demon mount. The manticore bounds into the foliage to stalk the other power-suits.

Nearby the armored foot-soldiers see living shadows flow out of the darkness, semidarkness, dark, gloominess, dimness, blackness, murk, shadows, shade, shadiness, obscurity, dusk, twilight, gloaming, and tenebrosity around them.

The VIPER-WOLVES race among them with flashing jaws. The common soldier fires wildly as they go down... hitting each other. The survivors break

also run as more viper-wolves come out of the shadows after them.

That moment starts an AIR BATTLE- RAGES- Duartha... directing operations from the Thunderbird... has lost track of a lot of its ships among the floating mountains. The IV'AN are fighting a dirty guerrilla war... luring its ships into single combat also ambushing them.

SHE- snaps the targeting system down over its eyes also takes over the gun system of the Thunderbird. SHE- tracks a banking creature rider also blows her out of the sky.

Mariella... flying its demon
mount... looks around to see- A FLOTILLA
OF MEDUSAE emerging around the flank
of Mons Prometheus. The Nahhas gas-
jellyfish glitter in the sun... big as ships.

CLOSER ON THE MEDUSAE. A
second Manticore sweeps into view...
ridden by Tsu Te. He signals to an IV'AN
hunter who rides the top of the lead
medusa. The female hunter has her queue
plugged into a nerve center at the top
dead center of the thing's huge bell.

She directs it to turn... also it
pulses... coming slowly around. The other
medusae are not ridden...

indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise they follow mindlessly.

A Gynosphinx... banking around the flank of the Big Rock-Calsoy Mountain... finds itself tangled in a curtain of rubbery tentacles a hundred feet long.

The pilot tries to pull free as he looks up- In time to see more of the gasbags converging... their bells pulsing vigorously. More stringy tentacles wind

over the Gynosphinx. It twists also turns...
trying to get free.

Tsu Te rides up near the
unmanned medusas which are gripping
the Gynosphinx. He waits until the
tentacles have drawn it up near the gas
bags... then fires a flaming arrow into the
middle of them.

KA-BOOM!!

They go up to indistinguishable,
close, near, almost identical,
homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred,
akin, related, much of a muchness, and
comparable the Hindenburg in a Nahhas
fireball which engulfs the Gynosphinx.

The gunship drops... bathed in the fire
also giant- jellyfish parts. It hits the rocks
below also the fuel explodes.

A pair of JF-17s pursues half a
dozen creature-riders through the
intermittent clouds which wreath Big
Rock-Calsoy Mountain. They suddenly
find themselves in a swarm of medusae.
The JF-17s slowdown... looking for a way
out of the pack of giant balloons. The
creatures peel away... disappearing.

There is a flash of colored
wings... an arc of fire... also then the
balloons around them explode... each
detonating the one next to it. The JF-17s

are consumed in an inferno of exploding hydrogen.

IN THE LAB back at the base...
the controllers watch in amazement as
the medusae explode.

They see the JF-17s fall
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable burning toys.
A CFOESE paratrooper- strides in...
shutting down the big monitor. He tells
them to go to quarters until the
emergency is over.

Hegner clubs her from behind
with a computer keyboard.

The other controllers jump in...
wrestling her down.

Spindly Nahha Harmon grabs the
guy's gun also runs for the door... yelling.

THE INTERCONNECTION ROOM
door is hurled open also the controller's
charge in... led by Harmon. Hegner
barricades the door at the end of the
connecting corridor then falls back to the
Interconnection room.

SHE- seals the door there... also
pushes lab equipment against it. The
controllers scramble into their

INTERCONNECTION chairs... pulling the helmets down.

THE FOREST IS A SMOKY in the background the fires form HELL- as if the underworld has opened. Fires seem to burn all around. The common soldier is separated also disorganized.

Shooting at shadows.

IV'AN run along massive tree boughs... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable walkways through the canopy.

They fire arrows down at two power-suits walking below. The arrows are tipped with bladders of- sticky liquid... which- break over the power-suits.

A beat... while the common soldier inside tries to figure out what is going on. Then a flock- of Sting-bats descend on them... drawn to the attractant. They swarm so thickly around the bubble canopies that the common soldier is blinded. One of them blunders into a ravine. The other fires around her wildly... panicking.

SPLAT!

Bladders of attractive burst
among a squad of the regular common
soldiers also volunteers. Within seconds a
swarm of HELLFIRE WASPS...

big as sparrows... is zipping
around them. The squad scatters...
screaming. A couple of them fall also do
not get up. Lillie... nearby... is yelling at
its intercom for a report.

Who is screaming? What is going
on? A regular paratrooper near her jerks
back as a SLINGER DART appears in its
chest... piercing its ballistic armor.

A scream on its left also another
man is taken down by a leaping SLINTH.

Lillie sees its striking head snap forward into the man's chest also knows he is dead. Lillie fires its cannon. The slinth flips convulsively amid flying earth also splintered bark.

Lillie stands there panting... looking around wildly... wondering what is going to come out of the jungle next.

AT THE BASE Nahha Harmon's mind-body take over sprints with powerful strides across the compound.

Inside... a CFOESE security squad blasts open the door to the corridor connecting to the Interconnection room.

They enter the corridor... advancing warily with their guns aimed.

K-RUNCH!! A bulldozer blade rips through the wall from outside. The corridor is flooded with lethal FDF'n air. The CFOESE guards are overcome... hacking also coughing.

They retreat... staggering back the way they came.

OUTSIDE Nahha pivots its bulldozer also advances on the CFOESE offices. SHE revs the giant machine also crashes straight into the wall.

The CFOESE OPERATIONS
CENTER... from which the battle was
being coordinated... is breached.

Ridgeville gapes as toxic air
swirls in. Alarms go off.

The technicians flee their
stations... ballooning the radar also
communication equipment. They all make
it out... sealing the door behind them.
Ridgeville stands in the corridor...
gasping. It is world unraveling. Nahha...
enjoying it... gives it the gas also drives
right into the Ops Center... turning the
equipment to rubble.

IN THE JUNGLE regular common soldier also, volunteers ran to the ramp of the Valkyrie shuttle which was their landing craft. They are pursued by viper-wolves... some of which follow the last men into the ship.

The pilot hears screaming also yelling from the back compartment. SHE-panics... also starts an emergency takeoff.

The huge ship rises into a hover also accelerates forward.

Out of the trees comes a shiny black shape that leaps onto the nose of the shuttle. The Manticore fills the ship's front windows. The pilot screams as the

tail slams right through the canopy...
shattering it.

OUTSIDE we see Auleiha also the
manticore drop off the accelerating ship
from a height of 14 feet. The manticore
crashes down through foliage also lands
agilely.

The shuttle accelerates out of
control- It climbs out of the forest-
inside... the pilot is dead at the controls...
the co-pilot gagging on the poisonous air.

The shuttle hits the underside of
Mons Veritatis. It explodes... also
hundreds of tons of flaming debris drop
back into the forest.

Duartha watches the wreckage falling. She orders the other shuttle to get out of the battle area. It is their only way of getting back to Prometheus... the ticket home.

Also, then he turns back to the battle. Also- you see in its face that he is over the edge. There is no logic in its brain now. Only death. Tsu Te glides its Manticore just beneath the cliff wall of the Big Rock-Calsoy Mountain. SHE- passes a broad waterfall... a shimmering curtain.

The Thunderbird gunship explodes out of the veil of water... bearing

down on Tsu Te with thundering turbines.
Duartha opens with the cannon as Tsu Te
banks its mount.

The rounds rip across the leo's
wing... also the dying animal flutters
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable a broken kite
down into drifting clouds.

Mariella... circling above... sees
Tsu Te get shot down.

The dying Manticore crashes
down through the trees... lodging in
branches high above the ground. Tsu Te

falls the rest of the way... clutching at vines as he tries to break its fall. SHE hits the ground... also lies there... severely injured.

Mariella's Manticore drops indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable a MiG 28... slamming into the Thunderbird with an earsplitting screech.

The Thunderbird lurches... indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a

muchness, and comparable wise is not-
toppled indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable the
Gynosphinxs. It shakes off the stunned
leonopteryx... also banks around to fire.

Mariella dives also the chase is
on.

They also turn... dive also climb.
Mariella dodges a fusillade of cannon fire
also air-to-air missiles... more by luck
than skill. He dives for the sheltering
trees.

They zigzag through the obstacle course under the canopy of foliage.

Mariella- leads the Thunderbird into a net trap.

The IV'AN dropped the net after he passes- Also the Thunderbird rips right through its indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable lace.

Mariella looks back. Uh oh. SHE- climbs hard... also the Thunderbird follows... ripping up the jungle around her. Mariella pushes Leo hard... climbing

into a cloud bank. The Thunderbird follows. The bank along a cliff wall... almost brushing the rock. The pilot of the Thunderbird loses sight of Mariella amongst a set of rocky spires. Duartha is scanning... looking for its target.

Mariella finishes its tight bank above the gunship also dives toward its broad back. He pulls out... skimming over the ship. Uncoupling its neural INTERCONNECTION... he rolls backward off the leonopteryx's back. Mariella hits... skidding... on the hull of the Thunderbird.

Duartha sees the Manticore zoom overhead also flap away from them. He

sends a missile after it also the scarlet demon vanishes in a fireball.

The huge gunship hovers... pivoting slowly as it scans for another target.

Mariella runs along the back of the thing... pulling two grenades from the bandolier. He pulls the pins with 'its' teeth. Then hurls them into the intakes.

BOOM!

BOOM!

The explosions ripped through the gunship's guts. It drops indistinguishable, close, near, almost

identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable to an elevator.
Mariella clings to a gun turret.

Out the side of the bubble
canopy... Duartha sees- Mariella clinging
to the ship ten feet from her. The pilot
tries in vain to regain control.

The gunship blunders down
through the treetops.

Mariella runs... diving out into
space with everything he has- Grabbing
an armful of lianas- SHE- plunges...
ripping painfully along the vines as- The
gunship crashes down through the trees

also- Mariella breaks its fall... hanging in a tangle of vines as- the gunship slams down into a small lake with a white explosion of water far below.

(BACK AT THE BASE-)

Ridgeville is at the end of its rope. He orders its ragged CFOESE guards to blow up the interconnection room.

Lynn Parrish puts a gun at Ridgeville's head also tells them all to drop their weapons.

Ridgeville cannot believe Parrish has suddenly decided to become a man of principle. Why start now?

indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable wise Parrish has had enough of feeling sick at heart... also Ridgeville has gone too far. He tells her to keep its money.

The guards lower their guns on Ridgeville's orders.

AT THE JUNGLE LAKE the Thunderbird gunship lies half submerged.

Out of the water in the foreground. a shape rises. It is Duartha... wearing a power-suit.

He strides up out of the water...
covered with mud. Its face... behind the
canopy... is bloody also its eyes burn.

Duartha strides into the forest...
looking for something to kill. He opens
fire with the GAU 72... blasting the trees-
around her into kindling. SHE- starts
cutting a swath through the jungle in a
lethal range.

TSU TE lies in a gasping heap. He
has some broken bones.

SHE- looks up... grimacing... as a
power-suit looms over her.

It is Lillie.

Wainfleet looks down at the fallen hunter. He reaches down also grabs Tsu Te by its queue... lifting her painfully.

Then he draws a huge knife with its other hydraulic corona.

He cuts Tsu Te's queue off near the base... scalping her.

Tsu Te screams in agony... its nervous system explodes overload. Lillie holds up the hair... Tsu Te's only connection to the world- consciousness which is its life's blood.

Lillie hears a chilling roar also a splintering crash. He looks around in time

to see a blurred black shape leap toward her in an explosion of foliage.

Auleiha's manticore is on her in one bound. It grips her... also the stinging tail rises. With blinding speed... it strikes over also down. CRACK! Right through the bubble canopy.

Lillie is skewered... pinned to the back of its cockpit. The venom goes through her... locking all its muscles in agonizing contraction. Auleiha drops her. She looks down at Tsu Te who... mercifully... is dead.

Auleiha hears firing nearby. She charges forward to meet the alien enemy.

On a collision course with-
DUARTHA... in its power-suit... moving
relentlessly through the jungle. Its
hydraulic boots clomp past the bodies of
IV'AN dire-PEGASUS... a Hippocampus.

SHE- sees something through the
dense foliage.

Moves to get a better look. It is
the CABIN. He is in the IV'AN stronghold.

The defenders are dead. Duartha
closes in on the Cabin.

INSIDE THE CABIN Mariella is
tranced out... under the
INTERCONNECTION.

Through a window... we see
Duartha's power suit step into the
clearing outside.

DUARTHA levels its UGA 911 at
the Cabin- Its finger goes to the firing
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wiseton-
WHAM!!

A six-legged black demon tackles
her. Duartha pivots as he falls... firing the
cannon. It misses Auleiha by inches. He
grapples with the manticore... keeping its
mantis forelimbs from locking onto her.

The two titans' twist also
struggles.

Auleiha strikes with the tail.
CRACK! It pierces the canopy
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise misses
Duartha.

SHE- grabs a quick breath...
holding it before the FDF'n air comes in.
Duartha slams the manticore back against
a tree trunk... almost crushing Auleiha.
Then he twists violently... hurling the
manticore off. It lands... twisting back on

itself almost indistinguishable, close,
near, almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness and comparable a
Dove- Auleiha gathers for a leap as-
Duartha raises the Gatling gun also- The
manticore launches at her also- BOOM!!

The GAU 72- rips into its belly.
Duartha holds the trigger down... drilling
hundreds of rounds into the thing... up its
chest to the fearsome head.

The manticore slumps to the
ground... pinning Auleiha's legs under its
great bulk. She is trapped.

Duartha grabs its breathing mask
also gulps air.

Then he looks down at Auleiha.
SHE- aims the cannon at her...
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable wise when he
fires it rotates harmlessly... empty. He
steps toward her also- a figure drops from
a limb above... between her also Auleiha.

It is Mariella.

The renegade mind-body takes
over charges straight at the power-suit...
which towers over her.

In corona-to-corona combat...

Mariella also Duartha fight to the death.

It is a knockdown drag-out fight.

Mariella has the speed also agility...

indistinguishable, close, near, almost

identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,

kindred, akin, related, much of a

muchness, and comparable wise Duartha

has the power... also he moves well in the

suit. Mariella is pummeled. At one point

the battle takes them near the Cabin.

Mariella swings a log

indistinguishable, close, near, almost

identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,

kindred, akin, related, much of a

muchness, and comparable a club...

knocking Duartha back.

The power suit crashes against
the Cabin... shaking it violently. Inside...
Human Mariella is jarred so hard the
INTERCONNECTION is momentarily
broken.

Mariella... Mind-body take over
drops indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,
much of a muchness, and comparable a
puppet with the strings cut.

Human Mariella pulls the headset
back down also re-establishes the

INTERCONNECTION. The mind-body takes over rolls away just as a hydraulic boot slam down. She springs to its feet only to duck a pile- driver punch.

Auleiha struggles to free herself from beneath the manticore's body. Mariella also Duartha grapple... also the power suit finally pins Mariella against a rock.

Duartha pulls back its arm for a crushing blow- Auleiha leaps into the shot... grabbing the arm- Mariella's corona flashes up... hitting the rescue-release- The canopy pops also Mariella

forces it open- SHE- hits the power switch
also the suit goes dead.

One powerful mind-body take
over arm grabs Duartha also yanks her
out indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable a soft oyster
from a shell. Duartha stares at her
through its breathing mask. Waiting for
the lethal blow.

Indistinguishable, close, near,
almost identical, homogeneous,
interchangeable, kindred, akin, related,

much of a muchness, and comparable
wise Mariella just cocks its head.

Listening- She hears something in
the forest nearby.

He sets Duartha down... also the
CFOESE commander staggers back.
Mariella motions for her to go. Also-
Duartha runs.

SHE crashes through the foliage
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable the demons of
Underworld are after her.

Which... unfortunately... they are.

Duartha sees the viper wolves flowing
from shadow to shadow behind her...
around her.

Two come out onto the trail
ahead of her. The circle closes in. The
viper wolves bare their glass
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable distending
fangs.

Hideous hyena laughter... then a
blur of motion.

Mariella also Auleiha discerns the scream through the trees. Then silence... except for the Nahhaal sounds of the forest.

They hug each other. The battle is over. They have won.

AT IVAN, the mind-body takeovers have secured the base also established control. They stand guard with weapons as the hurl survivors of the battle are marched onto the shuttle.

HUMAN MARIELLA watches as Ridgeville also its whole corrupt outfit aboard the shuttle.

Mariella has given an edict: The base is being closed. When the hurls are all back on Prometheus the last shuttle will be destroyed so no-one can come back.

Prometheus will go back to Earth.

So-o it is a time for goodbyes. Also... decisions. Mariella has decided to stay... also so have several of the other controllers. Siessah is leaving.

Also... all the other hurls are being told to leave. Thanks. Do not let the door hit you in the butt on the way out.

Marcia does her last down
INTERCONNECTION to Earth BEFORE

THE END. Mariella... is on camera; tells whoever is watching that the natural defenses... the immune system... of FDR will not allow hurls to set foot here again.

Just indistinguishable, close, near, almost identical, homogeneous, interchangeable, kindred, akin, related, much of a muchness, and comparable the cold also flu counter viruses were created; a new virus will be created.

It will be a virus lethal to hurls. An airborne hemorrhagic fever. A flesh-eating virus from Hell. If it gets back to Earth because of future expeditions

here... the whole hurl race will die to
scream. FDR is off-limits for all time.

Marcia also Kimberly hugs
Mariella's head for the airfield.

The shuttle takes off... its sun-
bright lance of fire climbing into the
evening sky.

There is not a virus
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable that is there?

MARIELLA- (With a little smile) It
could happen.

(NIGHT AT THE WELL AND
POND OF EMOTIONS BY THE
GARDENS.)

The willows glow softly.
Hundreds of torches light the
congregated congregation of clans. Mo'at
stands at the central willow... in
communion with Siaa. The IV'AN sit in
their concentric rings... also connected.

30

The camera starts wide... seeing
the hundreds of softly chanting figures in
the great circle. It swoops in toward the
center until it is hovering... looking down
at two figures lying on the ground.

Mariella also its mind-body take
overlie head-to-head. Hurl Mariella is
wearing a mask... connected to a
rebreather which is lying beside her. Both
figures are still... with coronae folded on
their chests. The silken threads cover
them both.

They lie cocooned
indistinguishable, close, near, almost
identical, homogeneous, interchangeable,
kindred, akin, related, much of a
muchness, and comparable moths.

We see Auleiha... Jan also Naden
stalling near the bodies. At the edge of

the inner circle... the other controllers
sit... cross-legged... watching intently.

As the camera moves in Auleiha
moves forward... kneeling next to
Mariella's human form. Now we see only-
Auleiha also the two Mariella. She gently
Link-up the mask from the human
Mariella's face. She is not breathing. She
bends also kisses her.

The camera drifts down past
her... centering on Mariella's mind-body
takeover. Moving into full close-up.
Auleiha moves next to Mariella's mind-
body takeover. Her corona comes into the
frame... stroking its cheek. TIGHTENING

slowly to link up- close-up until- her eyes
open... as the new baby she saw being
made as to the other life.

(A year has passed)

LASTLY- IV'AN GIRL'S AND
GIRLFRIENDS, Like Mariella- CAN
MATE, MEANING THE FRIST REAL
HUMAN- were one or the other is the
birth mother- and an IV'ANUMAN CHLID
WAS MADE- IN LOVE NOT SIN- unlike on
the dying Earth they knew before.